

₹16.02 lakh fine imposed on 116 consumers for theft of electricity in Faridkot

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Faridkot, August 10

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited is achieving great success in massive campaign against the menace of theft of electricity in the state. As per the directions of PSPCL CMD A Venu Prasad & Director Distribution Er. DIPS Grewal, different teams of Enforcement and Distribution has launched an aggressive campaign against the theft of electricity in the state.

Er.Jasvir Singh Bhullar Deputy Chief Engineer Distribution circle Faridkot of PSPCL disclosed that on August 7 different distribution teams of Faridkot circle has checked the premises of 475 consumers of different categories , 66 cases



of theft and 50 cases of unauthorized load were detected .A total of 16.02 lakh fine was charged to these consumers. FIR's are being lodged against the persons making theft of energy.

A spokesman of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited has appealed to all its consumers to help PSPCL in controlling

the menace of theft of electricity by providing information about theft of power for campaign against theft of electricity in the state. Anyone can also inform about theft of electricity on WhatsApp no 96461-75770. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited assured its consumers that their identity will not be disclosed.

325 SHGs to bring massive social and economic change for needy families: DC



DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, August 10

With a view to transforming the social and economic plight of needy women in rural areas, the District Administration has formed as many as 325 Self Help Groups under Punjab State Rural Livelihoods Mission, which would prove to be a milestone for their families.

Besides creation of these groups, the Administration has also disbursed the revolving fund to the tune of Rs 35.70 to 238 Self Help Groups (SHG) through Public Finance Management System, which will make their different ventures operational thus ensuring financial benefits to group members.

Deputy Commissioner Apneet Riyait, while elaborating Punjab State Rural Livelihoods

Mission (PSRLM), said that these groups had been created in block Talwara, Dasuya and Hoshiarpur-2 to strengthen the financial position of needy and poor women in rural areas. Each group has at least 10 female members, which could take advance payment from Administration under the Mission on returnable basis to fulfil the basic needs before starting any activities of self-employment. Apneet Riyait further pointed out that as per the comprehensive plan chalked out by the Administration there were nearly 200 SHGs in Talwara block, 48 in Dasuya, 54 in Hoshiarpur-2. The Administration is making concerted efforts to generate self-employment avenues especially amongst women of BPL families besides creating awareness amongst masses to come out with SHGs in villages.

Construction work of 39 houses starts in Handiaya Nagar Panchayat

KULDEEP SOOD
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Barnala, August 10

The government's Pradhan Mantri Shahri Awas Yojana is proving as a blessing for the homeless. Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Tej Partap Singh Phoolka in District Barnala, the scheme provides funds for the construction of houses to the homeless. Manpreet Singh Sidhu, Executive Officer, Nagar Panchayat Handiaya informed that cases of 40 beneficiaries have been passed in Nagar Panchayat Handiaya out of which 39 beneficiaries have started construction of houses.

As per the scheme, Nagar Panchayat Handiaya has received a total of Rs. 44.31 lakh, under which 38 beneficiaries have been allotted first installment, 37 beneficiaries second installment, and 32 beneficiaries third installment. Therefore, the total amount of Rs. 43.58 lakh has been disbursed to the beneficiaries.

29 new COVID-19 positive patients reported in Hoshiarpur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, August 3

The total number of positive patients has risen to 673 with the introduction of new cases of 937 persons with suspected flu-like symptoms of COVID-19 and the receipt of reports of 517 samples. The total number of samplings in the district has reached 33,484 and according to the reports received from the lab, 30,714 samplings are negative, while 2,105 samples are awaiting the report, 56 samplings are invalid. The number of active cases is 94, the number of cured patients is 578 and the number of deaths is 21. Disclosing this here on Monday, Dr Jasbir Singh, Civil Surgeon said that 29 new cases have been reported in the district in which 8 Ghogras of Ransots of Mand Bhandar 1, Chakwal 5, Garhshankar 2, Hajipur 4, Mukerian 1, Dasuya 3, Tadan 2 1 and Hoshiarpur urban with Bhim Nagar and 1-1 of new population positive Hoshiarpur city related.

Six COVID-19 deaths, 248 new positive cases reported in Patiala

JAGDEEP CHOPRA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, August 10

Patiala on Monday reporting six more COVID-19 deaths that took a total number of Corona deaths to 54. On the other hand, 248 new positive cases were also detected in a single day which too total number of Corona patients to 2,977. The Civil Surgeon, Dr Harish Malhotra while providing details about the same further told on Monday that reports of 1,100 samples were received out of which 248 found positives. He said that new positive cases include 12 police personnel, 7 pregnant women and 2 health officials. He added that out of 248 new positive cases 122 came from different areas of Patiala city, 27 from Rajpura, 24 from Nabha, 12 Samana, 5 Patran, 2 Sanour and 58 from different villages. He said that 76 cases came from contact tracing, 31

COVID-19 patient recovers from mechanical ventilation in Rajindra Hospital at Patiala

Scripting another success story in curing COVID-19 positive patients, a dedicated team of Doctors (Frontline Warriors) at COVID ICU, Government Rajindra Hospital here has got major success in relieving a 50-year-old Ludhiana based corona infected woman from Mechanical Ventilation. Here it is mentioned that she



was admitted to the hospital in critical condition due to difficulty in breathing. She is now recovering from her critical situation due to the hard work of the hospital doctors. The Medical Superintendent (MS) of Government Rajindra Hospital here, Dr Paras Pandov told on Monday that Shukla Devi, a 50-year-old woman from Ludhiana, was admitted to the COVID Isolation Ward on the night of July 31 in critical condition with 65 per cent SpO2 and respiratory supporting system.

from containment areas and 137 with flu symptoms and they all are shifted to COVID care facilities as per the guidelines and sanitization of their respective areas are on and contact tracing is also on the way. Whereas talking about the deaths he told that a 70 years old person from Qila Chowk area under treat-

ment for sugar and other ailments died today, a 40 years old person from village Charaso under treatment for Liver ailment has also died, one person with old sugar ailment belonged to Baba Jiwan Singh Basti also died, one 31 years old person from Top khanna mor with sugar and Kidney problems also died .

Admn honours freedom fighters

RAJESH DEHRA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Rajpura, August 10

On behalf of government and the district administration two freedom fighters from Patiala district who took part in Bharat Chhodo Andolan were honoured on Monday. SDM Rajpura Khushdil Singh and Tehsildar Manmohan Kaushik called on freedom fighter Mahinder Singh



was honoured at village Nepran in Rajpura. Similarly at village Shahpur Araiyan of Ghanour SDM. Khushdil Singh and Naib Tehsildar Gaurav Bansal Charan Singh. The SDM assured that the district administration would make the country independent. The recipient is always at the service of freedom fighters, on Monday. On this occasion, Mahendra Singh and Charan Singh said that they are happy that the government remembers the freedom fighters who contributed to the country's independence.

LPU BTech Aerospace engineering student wins int'l 'Silver Honour' award

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 10

BTech Aerospace Engineering student Gopalchetty Brahma of LPU has won international 'Silver Honour' award by proving his deftness and creativity in academic course related fields- Astronomy and Astrophysics.



The occasion was the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition (IAAC-2020), held online, for the students from all across the world. Tough competitors were

from the countries including the US, UK, Russia, Canada, Germany, China, France, Italy, Spain, South Korea, New Zealand, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore and many more. This competition sharpens students' minds to learn more in depth about these two fields related densely to aerospace and aeronautical engineering.

Narcotic Control Cell nabs two persons with 28,000 habit-forming drugs

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, August 10

The Narcotic Control Cell of Punjab Police actively working on the tip-off nabbed two persons and booked them under NDPS Act.

As per the information, while the police party was patrolling in the area of Lakho Ke Behram in Ferozepur, a tip-off was received that two alleged accused Raj Singh and Bajjinder Singh of Ghatian Wali Bodla who is involved in the profession of selling intoxicant – habit forming – drugs, can be caught red-handed if raided instantly. Working on the tip-off, the police team of Narcotic Control Cell raided at the designated place of Bus Stand Guddar Dhandi, nabbed two persons with Honda City car No.DC-4C-AB-4971 and on search, 28,000 habit forming drugs of Clovidol 100 SR brand were recovered.

Sanaur MC gets cent percent success in door-to-door garbage collection

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, August 10

Following the strict instructions of state government as well as the National Green Tribunal, Municipal Council, Sanaur in this district has claimed to achieve in getting cent percent target in the collection of the door-to-door garbage from the houses.

While providing details about the same the Deputy Director, Local Bodies Department, Patiala Region, Jashanpreet Kaur Gill on Monday further told here that under the guidance of the Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh and Local bodies Minister, Brahm Mohindra a special cleanliness



drive has been launched in the state under which every city in the state will be totally clean and shaped without garbage.

She added that under the current drive in Sanour 's 15 municipal wards 15 rehries are in use and 30 safari sewaks (Karamcharies) are collecting wet and dry garbage from house to house and taking them near to ex fauji park and Lachman Dass Parks two material recovery facility sheeds and disposing of it by proper separation.

32 new positive cases reported in Bathinda

PAPINDER SINGH MAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bathinda, August 10

According to the data received on the evening of Monday, 11 Corona affected patient has recovered in Bathinda. The Deputy Commissioner Bathinda B Srinivasan Disclosing this here on Monday. He said that 32 new cases have been found positive and 350 are negative in the last 24 hours. At present there are a total of 468 active cases of corona in the district. He said that special care should be taken by those traveling in remote areas and those who come in direct contact with the public and those who come in contact with them to prevent the spread of the virus.

One arrested for violating DC orders

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Nakodar, August 10

The Mehat Pur Police has arrested one person on the charge of violating Jalandhar deputy commissioner's order on the curfew. The Investigating Officer (IO) Jit Singh said that the accused has been identified as Vishal Deep Singh a resident of Mohalla Jhugian

who violated the order on the curfew by loitering. IO said that a case under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) 269 and 270 (negligent and malignant acts likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life)) of the IPC and Section 51 (b) of the Disaster Management Act has been registered against the accused.

In-principle nod for virology institute's centre in Punjab

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

The Centre has given in-principle approval to set up a centre of the National Institute of Virology in Punjab to cater to the north zone, officials said on Monday.

At present, the National Institute of Virology in Pune in Maharashtra is the only institution capable of providing a well-coordinated medical and public health response to a public health emergency in India. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who had made the proposal some weeks back amid



the COVID-19 pandemic, welcomed the approval, saying the proposed centre would prove to be a milestone in boosting research in the field of virology.

He said it will make India future-ready to predict and detect viruses at the earliest so that necessary

preventive steps can be taken.

He said the virology centre will also go a long way in addressing the requirements of other northern states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan, and UTs of Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Preneet Kaur seeks support of media to win fight against COVID-19

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, August 10

Member of Parliament from Patiala and former Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Preneet Kaur on Monday has sought the cooperation of the media to win the war against COVID-19.

In a video message here on Monday, Preneet Kaur said that the role of media is important to boost the morale of our frontline warriors like doctors, nurses, police, ward attendants and Safai Sewaks etc. who are contributing in the fight against coronavirus 24 hours a day. For which the media can also play a meaningful role in view of the current situation and by avoiding any misleading news.

Preneet Kaur appealed to all that while 54 members of doctors, nurses, ward attendants, class four and other medical personnel were also



suffering from COVID infection, then any kind of politics must be avoided and respect should be given to the Corona Warriors by encouraging them.

Giving example, She said that despite contracting virus, Doctors like Dr RPS Sibbia, are constantly liaising with their colleagues to care for the patients. She further said that in Patiala district so far 1,723 COVID positive patients have been cured and the remaining about 960 patients are undergoing treatment at Government Rajindra Hospital, COVID Care Center and other COVID Centers.

Major haul of 1.33 lakh litres illicit liquor recovered and destroyed in three districts



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

Continuing its spree against the illegal liquor in the state, the Joint teams of Excise and Police department today destroyed a major haul of 1.33 lakh litres of lagan in Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka districts of the state.

Divulging the details a spokesperson of the Excise department said that the joint teams of Police and Excise department destroyed 1,33,500 litres of lagan in a major operation involving the three districts. Approximately 1,25,000 litres of lagan was recovered and destroyed in Ferozepur and Tarn Taran districts. Around 6500 litres lagan was recovered in village Mahalam in Jalalabad of Fazilka district and 2000 litres lagan in Ferozepur district.

Justice Rajan Gupta inaugurates online training of 50 newly recruited judicial officers

A SELFLESS SERVICE FOR THE HUMANITY IS WHAT A LIFE OF A JUDGE, SAYS JUSTICE RAJAN GUPTA



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

Justice Rajan Gupta, Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana and the President, Board of Governors, Chandigarh Judicial Academy, inaugurated the online training of the newly recruited 50 judicial officers for the state of Punjab and Haryana, on Monday. The address was delivered online from the High Court in the presence of Shalini Singh Nagpal, Director (Administration)-cum-District and Sessions Judge and Dr Balram K. Gupta, Director (Academics). It was attended online by the District Sessions Judges along with the newly recruited judicial officers for the state of Punjab and Haryana.

On the occasion, Justice Gupta said that the human race was passing through the unprecedented crisis set on by the coronavirus which had made a paradigm shift in the ways humans have been conducting themselves. He said that to address this challenge we have to adopt new modes

and methods of lifestyle.

The pandemic has restricted our physical movements but connected us digitally. Justice Gupta said that he felt proud to say that our country has leapfrogged in technology to undertake all our necessary activities in this moment of crisis.

He said that Judicial education and training are one of the most effective means for enhancing the fair administration of justice. For this, improvement in the skills of judges is paramount. He emphasised that it requires a lot of discipline, integrity, commitment and continuous perseverance to match the demands of a judicial office.

Life of a judge demands the best and the tough out of life. A judge is a missionary whose mission is to impart justice in society. Selfless service for humanity is what the life of a judge is. He urged the Trainee Judicial officers to measure up to the task by cultivating simplicity, discipline, hard work, sensitivity and empathy in their character. He endorsed the compari-

son made by Dr Balram K. Gupta, Director (Academics) between judicial service and military service as both services required immense sacrifices in life.

Justice Gupta hoped that the exposure in the courts from the day one along with the interactive online sessions during the training shall go a long way to equip the trainee judicial officers with necessary skills to discharge the duties of a judge. While learning the court skills, he emphasised on the good conduct of a judge. He said that their conduct must be exemplary both in and outside the court. A judge must be courteous, humble, sensitive, simple and a person with minimum needs. He urged that the trainee judicial officers are required to understand the objective conditions of the society and be fair to everybody.

Justice Gupta concluded the session by congratulating the trainee judicial officers and wished them all success in life followed by the singing of National Anthem.

Sukhbir Badal defends agriculture ordinances, says will lead protest if MSP, free power disturbed



Farm union leaders seeking withdrawal of agriculture ordinances from centre govt submitted 'warning letter' to SAD president Sukhbir Badal at his residence in Badal village. **BPE**

SACHIN KUMAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bathinda, August 10

Even as SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday defended the three agriculture ordinances, he said he was ready to make "any personal or political sacrifice" in the fight to safeguard the cause of the peasantry in Punjab.

The SAD president was talking to delegation of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee at his residence in Badal village. The delegation met him as a part of statewide protest submitting "warning letters" to leaders of SAD, Congress and AAP seeking withdrawal of three agriculture ordinances passed by

Farmers submit 'warning letters' to leaders against agriculture ordinances

BATHINDA, AUGUST 10

Farmer activists of 10 farm organisations under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, on Monday, submitted "warning letters" to leaders of different political parties seeking withdrawal of three agriculture ordinances introduced by central government. The farmers submitted the letter to SAD president and Ferozepur MP Sukhbir Singh Badal, representatives of Punjab cabinet ministers Manpreet Singh Badal and Gurpreet Singh Kangar, Congress MLAs Pritam Singh Kotbhai and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, AAP MLAs Baljinder Kaur, Rupinder Kaur Ruby and Jagdev Singh Kalamu. **BPE**

BJP led NDA government, of which SAD is a part.

"I and my party will never allow the current dispensation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) or free power facility to be disturbed," he said. He, however, defend-

Soni dedicates COVID-19 viral testing lab to people



NARINDER GUPTA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, August 10

Ramping up the testing capacity of COVID-19 in Punjab for effectively dealing with the surge in Covid Cases in Jalandhar, the Punjab Medical Education & Research Minister OP Soni on Monday inaugurated COVID-19 Viral Testing lab, established in the premises of Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory North Zone, Ladowali Road.

Accompanied by the Vice Chancellor, Baba Farid University of Health Science, Faridkot Dr Raj Bahadur, Special Secretary Animal Husbandry Manpreet Singh Chatwal, Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori, Commissioner of Police Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, the Minister said that the lab would carry out 1000 tests per day and with the opening of the four labs today, the testing capacity in

Punjab will touch the mark of 16,000 tests daily, which would further lead to contain the spread of contagion by ensuring timely detection and treatment.

The Minister said that a dedicated team of the experienced doctors and scientists had been stationed here besides providing requisite medical equipment, lab staff and others for the Covid testing by Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

Soni said that with this facility starting here now there would be no need to send the samples to other places and would help the local health department for start testing, tracing and treatment at the earliest. The Cabinet Minister said that the Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh is committed to tackle any kind of exigency in the view of the spike in Covid cases and augmentation of the medical infrastructure to ensure best possible care and treatment is being carried out expeditiously.

Taxation Dept intensifies its efforts to check tax evasion

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 10

On the Chief Minister's directives, the vigorous checking by the Enforcement Wing of Taxation Department led to imposition of penalty worth Rs.4.12 crore on 310 defaulter vehicles out of total 348 during the month of July 2020 especially amid trying circumstances of COVID-19.

Notably, the Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has already given stern instructions to the Taxation Department not to be complacent on the part of tax evasion. While reviewing the performance of the Taxation Department, the Commissioner Taxation Nilkanth S. Avhad appreciated the efforts of the Enforcement Wing in detecting the GST evasions thus preventing the loss to State exchequer. **BPE**

Mohali's PBTI Viral Diagnostic Laboratory for COVID-19 inaugurated

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

Punjab Biotechnology Incubator under Department of Science, Technology and Environment Govt of Punjab, having an NABL accredited analytical facility in Food, Water, Agriculture and Environment sectors with strength in RT-PCR based Molecular Diagnostics was chosen by state government for strengthening to enhance State's COVID-19 testing capacity to fight with this global pandemic.

PBTI's Viral Diagnostic Laboratory for COVID-19 with a well planned infrastructure and Hi-end equipment set up on an area of more than 1000 sqft with the support from Department of Medical



Education & Research and Baba Farid University of Health Sciences was inaugurated on Monday by Medical Education & Research Minister Punjab O P Soni and Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu in the presence of Alok Shekhar IAS PSSTE, DK Tewari IAS, PSMER, Dr Raj Bahadur, VC BFUHS and other dignitaries.

The ministers congratulated Alok Shekhar and his team on this occasion

and encouraged the staff with their motivational words.

Alok Shekhar informed that the laboratory has become fully operational and has started analysing the samples after getting ICMR approval. Dr Ajit Dua, CEO PBTI informed that starting with 100 samples per day, the testing shall be ramped up to 1000 samples per day as soon as the automated RNA extraction system is commissioned.

Channi launches portal of MRSPTU to provide online services to students

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

The Punjab Technical Education and Industrial Training Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Monday launched the portal of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Technical Education University to provide online services to the students in the presence, Anurag Verma Principal Secretary Technical Education and Industrial Training. The



students of MRSPTU would be able to raise application requests online for availing various services, such as Provisional Degree Certificate (PDC) Transcript, documents/degree/ Detailed Marks Card (DMC) correction, verification, attestation etc.

Singla emphasised on increasing participation of school children in educational competitions

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

More than forty thousand school children have participated in the field of poetry recitation competitions organised by the Punjab School Education Department dedicated to the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. The series of competitions have been started by the School



Education Department under the directions of Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla and 'Shabad Gyan' competitions have already been concluded

and now 40,888 students from all over the state have participated in the online poetry recitation competitions. Singla has directed to ensure maximum participation of children in these competitions so that artistic skills of the students can be sharpened besides motivating them to acquire maximum knowledge of Guru Tegh Bahadur's philosophy.

SGPC member Mithu Singh Kanheke resigns from SAD

BATHINDA, AUGUST 10

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) member from Mansa, Mithu Singh Kanheke, 67, has resigned from Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

Kanheke sent his resignation to party president Sukhbir Singh Badal late Sunday evening. Talking to Punjab Express, Kanheke said that he has been raising several questions about the functioning of SAD as well as SGPC but party leadership hasn't addressed his concerns. "The party has given up its principles and is no more a panthic party. Party is supporting the three anti-farmer ordinances introduced by the central government. How will SAD face the farmers of state who are up in arms against the ordinances. **BPE**

DWA felicitates newly appointed senior Vice Chairman of PYDB



NPS CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, August 10

District Wrestling Association (DWA), Amritsar General Secretary & Coach of the Indian Wrestling Team Vikram Sharma felicitated Prince Khullar on being appointed as Senior Vice Chairperson, Punjab Youth Development Board, on Monday. He urged Khullar to inspire the Youth of Punjab to come forward so as to drive our state towards prosperity while completely staying away from any sort of addiction.

On this occasion Prince Khullar assured that the Youth of Punjab shall be facilitated in every possible manner so as to achieve our objective to bring more laurels in sports & overall prosperity in the State of Punjab & at the National

level. He said that monthly meetings shall be held with Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner & Police Commissioner, District Sports Officer & all Coaches so as to resolve the matters relating to the Sports Players as well as the overall youth which is the future of any state or country.

On this occasion Wrestling Coach Karan Sharma, Wrestling Coach Sahil hum, Body Builder Amritpal Nanghi (Punjab Kesari), Gurpal Singh (UPSC Student), Karanjot Singh (Indian Wrestling Team Member), Bodybuilder Sahil (Sitaare Punjab), Sarabjot Singh (Owner Rock Gym), Sahil Bodybuilder (National Champion), Sidharth, Ankur Bodybuilder, Baljeet Singh (Owner Bull Gym), Kamal Mahajan, Raghu, Deepak, Rahul, Rinku were present.

Corona cases cross 16,000-mark in UT

CITY RECORDS THE HIGHEST EVER SPIKE OF 80 CASES IN 24 HOURS

A.S.PRASHAR
Chandigarh, August 10

The new cases have been reported from different sectors of the city and the villages surrounding it. Meanwhile, 100 patients have been cured and discharged from different hospitals during the past 24 hours

CHANDIGARH (UT) COVID-19 STATUS UPDATE:- (RT-PCR)+ (RAPID-ANTIGEN)	
Total number of active cases	565
Total number of patients tested	17928
Total number of patients found negative	16246
Total number of patients found positive	1595
Total number of samples rejected	3
Total number of COVID-19 patient cured till date	1004
Total number of COVID-19 deaths till date	25
Death of COVID-19 patient due to other reasons	01
Total number of samples of UT whose result is awaited	84
*Total number of samples of Chandigarh collected	18850

Two more succumb to coronavirus in Mohali, tally rises to 21

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
S.A.S. Nagar, August 10

Mohali witnessed two fatalities due to the coronavirus, taking the total fatalities in the district to 21. The deceased have been identified as a 38-year-old male of Mubarikpur who was suffering from multiple co-morbidities. The other person has been identified as a 70-year-old male of Dera Bassi who died in Panchkula and was also suffering from multiple co-morbidities. Meanwhile, the district witnessed 76 fresh cases of coronavirus the total



count to 1,385. 21 positive patients have recovered and were discharged from the hospital on Saturday. Dr Manjit Singh said

P’kula records 44 fresh cases

PANCHKULA, AUGUST 10

Forty-four new Covid-19 cases were reported on Sunday, taking the tally of Panchkula district to 939. For now, only 32 have been added to the district count, because 5 infected persons are yet to be traced, while seven are from outside the district.

Four cases each surfaced at Khera Sita Ram village and Kalka. The fresh cases also include three each from Sector 10 and Pinjore and two from Mansa Devi Complex, Sector 6. One case each was reported from Sector 17, 18, 11, 14, 4, 19, 12A, 8, Kethkurali village, Sector 15, Amravati Enclave, Bansolan village and Tapran village. BPE

Parida launches website on ‘Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living’



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

A step to meet the endeavours of the Government of India under Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living, a dedicated website <https://urbanplanning.chd.gov.in> of the Department of Urban Planning, Chandigarh Administration, prepared by SPIC, has been launched on Monday by Manoj Parida, Adviser to the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh.

The website has been developed with the intention of providing a single online source to all information relating to the Development in the city for facilitating public interface functions. It provides all information relating to the planning and designing of various projects, which are either ongoing or at planning stage or have already been completed. For transparency and visibility of Government Schemes and to keep the citizens of the city apprised of the

latest projects, important notified policies & reports of the Chandigarh Master Plan-2031, Chandigarh's Heritage and information regarding various city level infrastructure proposals have also been uploaded on the website.

The portal shall be first of its own kind which provides consolidated information required in Online Building Plan Approval System because all approved Architectural Controls, updated site verified Zoning Plans and Layout Plans have been uploaded on the website under distinct heads for clarity and ease of use. The latest Building Byelaws applicable to various types of land use (as compiled under Chandigarh Building Byelaws (Urban) 2017) shall also be available on the website for reference of the citizen in general and private architects in particular for all relevant information on building plans.



Students of Panjab University protest against fee hike outside administration block in Chandigarh on Monday. SANTANSHU SHARMA

Passengers will be able to get real-time information about buses, soon

BRIJENDER GAUR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

A dedicated control room will soon be built at Sector-43 ISBT, which will help to monitor the movement of buses. With this facility, passengers will be able to get the exact timing of buses on their mobile phones. The UT administration has started work to set up the main project control room of the intelligent transport system. A control room is

to be built by the administration in Sector-43 and the administration will soon hire a company for electrical work. Applications have been sought from qualified agencies for this task. After the control room is ready, the movement of buses will be monitored from here and real-time information will be provided to passenger's mobile phones. This will let people know which bus is reaching the bus stop at what time. This will save their precious time.

A concerned officer, while sharing this information, said that the administration has started the process of tendering for electrical work to build a control room in Sector-43, for which applications have been sought from qualified agencies. They have to complete this work within two months. Apart from this, repair work will also be completed simultaneously. He further said that right now they are setting up a control room in the bus depot, temporarily.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Harminder Kaur alias Harvinder Kaur w/o Lakhwinder Singh r/o village Sarawan bodla tehsil malout distt sh. Muktar Sahib declare that both name are one and the same person.

I Kamla, legally wedded spouse No15155314H, Rank Gnr (Clk) Name Jagat Singh resident at Vill Mashnool, PO Masi, Teh Chaukhutia. Distt- Almora (UK), Unit 1841 Rkt Regt (PINAKA). I have changed my name from Kamala Devi to Kamla due to spelling mistake vide Notary Public Affidavit at Chandigarh on 05th August, 2020 that Kamala Devi and Kamla is same and one identical person.

I Balwinder Singh Raja S/o Late Bahadar Singh R/o Village Kammo Majra Khurd Tehsil and Distt Sangrur have changed my name to Balwinder Singh.

I No JC-731034F Rank SUB Mahesh Prasad Pandey F/o Hemanshu Pandey Unit 1ARMD DIV ORD Unit C/O 56 APO have changed my son name Hemanshu to Hemanshu Pandey.

I No JC-731034F Rank SUB Mahesh Prasad Pandey F/o Dipanshu Pandey Unit 1ARMD DIV ORD Unit C/O 56 APO have changed my son's DOB wrongly entered 12/11/2005 to correct DOB 12/01/2005.

I Lakhbir Singh S/o Harlal R/o village Ubhia distt Sangrur have changed my name to Lakhvir Singh.

I Sinder Kaur W/o Ranjit Singh R/o Pharwahi Distt Barnala have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

I Surjit Singh S/o Amar Singh R/o Vill. Bhatian kalan, Teh. Malerkotla, Distt. Sangrur have changed my name to Ajit Singh.

I Amarjeet Singh S/o Gurmail Singh R/o H.No.1244, Near Verka Milk Plant, Mangwal Distt Sangrur have changed my name to Amarjit Singh.

I, Lakshay s/o Sudesh Kumar R/o 147, ST.NO.4,BLOCK B, JAIN NAGAR,RAHON ROAD LUDHIANA changed name LAKSHAY PEHWAL.

I, Karanbir Singh S/o Raghbir Singh R/o 4184/A, Guru Nanak Nagar Street No 4, Opp. ITI College Shimlapuri Ludhiana Changed name Ravinder Pal Singh.

I, Md. Kamal Ansari S/o Md. Shamshul Haq Ansari and Mohammad Kamal Ansari S/o Mohammad Samsul Ansari R/o 52, Street No 13, Near Akal Mandal Gurdwara, Guru Hargobind Nagar Ludhiana declare that both names are one and person.

We, Rakesh Kumar S/O Gandhi Ram and Aarti Mattu W/O Rakesh Kumar R/O H.No.1275/4 near DAV College, Godam Mohalla, Katra Sher Singh Amritsar inform that on the birth certificate of our daughter her name is mentioned as Sakshi but her correct name is Sakshi Mattu.All Concerned note.

I, Amrish Kumar s/o Sh. Baldev Raj R/o street no.2 Green Estate khanna khurd tehsil khanna (ludhiana) state that the names Amrish Kumar and Amrish Batta are of same person.

I Neeru w/o Anil Thapar r/o H. No. 704/9 st. No. - 2 civil lines ludhiana have changed my name from neeru to reena thapar after my marriage.

I mamta d/o prem bhandari r/o hno. 211 st. No - 15, gauri enclave jassian road ludhiana have changed my name from mamta to mamta bhandari

I No. 1588037A, Ex. NK. Rajinder Singh # Village Sadhan Wala P.O. Golewala District Faridkot have changed my son's name from Raghbir Singh to Sharandeep Singh.

I Jarnail Singh S/o Dalip Singh Dhillon R/o Village Wander Jatana District Faridkot have changed my name to Jarnail Singh Dhillon.

I Kaljeet Kaur w/o Gursimranjeet Singh R/o H.No. 179, St.No.5-R, Teacher Colony Faridkot have changed my name to Kuljeet Kaur.

I hitherto known as Kirandeep Kaur w/o Nirmal Singh R/o Ward No.7, Adarsh Nagar Makhu Tehsil Zira District Ferozpur Punjab, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rupinder Kaur.

I hitherto known as Hardeep Singh Gill S/o Harwinder Singh R/o VPO: Pakhi Kalan District Faridkot Punjab, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Hardeep Singh.

I Parvinder Singh s/o Bhagat Singh r/o #127 VPO Sohana (Mohali) changed my name to Parvinder Singh Baidwan

I Harjinder Kaur w/o Parvinder Singh Baidwan r/o # 127 VPO Sohana (Mohali) changed my name to Harjinder Kaur Baidwan

I Rajinder Kumar s/o Suraj Bhan r/o H.No. 24-B/A, Punjabi Colony, Rajpura Town (Patiala) changed my minor daughters name Diya to Diya Khatter

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Kulwinder Singh s/o Surjit Singh resident of Ward No. 1, Dirba tehsil Dirba District Sangrur. Declare That we are three brothers Kulwinder Singh, Davinder Singh, Satpal Singh son of Surjit Singh resident of Dirba district Sangrur. My younger brother Satpal Singh and his wife Mandeep Kaur have a quarrel. I sever all ties with my brother Satpal Singh and his wife Mandeep Kaur. If they quarrel among themselves. Then I will not have any responsibility in it. The one dealing with them will be responsible.

I Rajveer Kaur wife of Malkit Singh resident of Kamalpur tehsil Dirba district Sangrur. Declare That my brother Jaspreet Singh son of Hakam Singh resident of Bahadurpur was married to Jasleen Kaur daughter of Satwinder Singh resident of Khanna city about seven years ago. And they have a 6 year old son. My brother Jaspreet Singh and his wife Jasleen Kaur do not get along at all and both keep fighting. Which is why I sever all ties with them. The one dealing with them will be responsible.

I Malkit Singh son of Ajai Singh resident of Kamalpur tehsil Dirba district Sangrur. Declare That my in-laws family my brother-in-law Jaspreet Singh son of Hakam Singh resident of Bahadurpur was married to Jasleen Kaur daughter of Satwinder Singh resident of Khanna city about seven years ago. And they have a 6 year old son. My brother-in-law Jaspreet Singh and his wife Jasleen Kaur don't get along at all and the two keep fighting. Which is why I sever all ties with them. The one dealing with them will be responsible.

I Gurcharan Singh (Aadhar Card No. 333447058867) son of Bachan Singh resident of Bhawanigarh District Sangrur. Declare That my son Gurwinder Singh and his wife Parminder Kaur alias Preet are out of my control. I disinherit them from my movable and immovable property. The one dealing with them will be responsible. I and my family will have no responsibility.

I Zora Singh son of Babu Singh resident of village Pakhoke Teh and district Barnala. Declare That my sister Veerpal Kaur was married to Harjinder Singh resident of Daraj Road Tapa. His son and my nephew Gurpreet Singh had been living with me for many years. I educated him and brought him up. But now my nephew Gurpreet Singh is out of my control. I disown him from my movable and immovable property. The one dealing with him will be responsible himself.

We Hamir Singh alias Balvir Singh son of Sant Singh and Sukhwinder Kaur wife of Hamir Singh alias Balvir Singh resident of House No. B-14/5106 Street No. 1, Guru Ram Das Nagar, Sekha Road Barnala District Barnala. Declare That our daughter Hardeep Kaur is out of our control. We disown her from our movable and immovable property. The one dealing with him will be responsible himself.

I Dev Singh, S/o Soum Singh, R/o Pedhni Kalan, Tehsil Dhuri, District Sangrur. Declare That my son Balwinder Singh who has been living in Dubai for the last 4 years. And his wife Santosh Rani is out of my control And threatens to kill the whole family and my daughters. I disown her from my movable and immovable property. The one dealing with him will be responsible himself. I and my family will have no responsibility.

THIS IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF GENERAL PUBLIC THAT CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION IN PARTNERSHIP FIRM M/S TARA SINGH CE WC-D-05, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN PARTNER:- 1. SHAMSHER SINGH (RETIRED) 2. ANIL KUMAR (INCOMING). 3. RAJ SINGH (INCOMING). IF ANYBODY HAS ANY OBJECTION SO KINDLY SUBMIT YOUR OBJECTION UPTO 20-08-2020 TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER, WESTERN COMMAND, CHANDI MANDIR. AMARJIT SINGH (PARTNER), HNO. 632, SECTOR 20-A, CHANDIGARH.

We Kuldeep Singh S/o Piara Singh and Sarabjeet Kaur W/o Kuldeep Singh VPO Shergarh Distt Hoshiarpur declare that my son Manjinder Singh Saini, his wife Hardeep Kaur Saini and second son Jaspal Singh, his wife Priyanka are out of our control so we disinherit them from our moveable and immovable property. We shall not be responsible if anybody dealing with them.

I, Sanjay Kumar Sharma S/o Satya Parkash Sharma R/o 162/1 Luxman Nagar Miller Ganj Ludhiana Declare that I had disowned my son Vishal Sharma through this news paper. But now my son is under my control so I revoke the disown of Vishal Sharma and my said son is legal heir for my moveable and immovable properties

ਮੈਂ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਮੱਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮੁਹੱਲਾ ਇਦਰਾਹ ਵਾਰਡ ਨੰਬਰ 12 ਬੱਸੀ ਪਠਾਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਪਰਮਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਕਿਰਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਜਿਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੈਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਪਰਮਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਕਿਰਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਮੈਂ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਢਪਈ ਰੋਡ, ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕਪੁਰਾ, ਜ਼ਿਲਾ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ (Amritsar), ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਦੀਪਕ, ਹੁੰਗ ਰਾਜਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਸੁਣਨ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਮੈਂ ਨੀਲਮ ਸਿਆਲ ਪਤਨੀ ਲੇਟ ਵਿਨੋ ਕੇ ਸਿਆਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਮ:ਨੰ: 437 ਏ, ਓਸੀਐਡ ਕਾਲੋਨੀ ਸੈਕਟਰ 29 ਏ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਆਪਣੀ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਜੋਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਸ਼ੁਭਮ, ਸ਼ਿਵਾਨੀ ਤੇ ਸੁਨੇਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Migration Certificate of Main Senior Secondary Examination of year 2017 and roll number 2746029 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of Candidate Gurwinder Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/o Village Ghorenab Teh Moonak Distt Sangrur (Punjab) 148031 Mobile Number 9878005270

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‘COVID-19 Viral Testing Laboratory’ inaugurated at GADVASU

AMARPREET SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

The newly established ‘COVID-19 Viral Testing Laboratory’ at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana was inaugurated on Monday.

While sharing this information Dr J P S Gill, Director of Research and Nodal Officer of the lab informed that after Indian Council of Medical Research nod to this lab we have started testing of 100 samples per day from last week. On Monday, O P Soni, Cabinet Minister, Medical Education and Research, and Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Cabinet Minister Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs inaugurated this lab with other dignitaries and dedicated it to the citizens of Punjab.

Describing this event as an important moment Dr Inderjeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, GADVASU apprised that with the functioning of this lab we will be able to speed up testing of COVID-19, as that is need of the hour for timely management of this disease. He expressed his gratitude towards Chief Minister, concerned ministers, officials,



Vice-Chancellor, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences and all the Medical and Veterinary professionals for their untiring contribution to establish this lab. He said that work of scientists and employees of this lab will be remembered forever as a great service to the nation. O P Soni said that with opening of this lab at GADVASU along with three other labs, two in Mohali and one in Jalandhar we will be able to increase the testing capacity to 4,000 per day.

Bharat Bhushan Ashu said that it is a matter of privilege for Ludhiana district to have this lab and now we will be able to test more samples of Ludhiana district and will get speedy results.

D K Tiwari, Principal Sec-

retary, Medical Education and Research said that scientists of GADVASU performed very well in the labs of Govt Medical College, Amritsar and Patiala for COVID-19 testing. Now their services will be more beneficial for this lab, he added. Manpreet Singh Chhatwal, Special Secretary, Animal Husbandry said that under ‘One Health’ concept veterinary professionals are widening their sphere of expertise by serving humans too. Dr Raj Bahadur, V-C, BFUHS, who has been instrumental behind all these new labs said that this lab will support in a tall manner and we have great hopes from this lab. Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma witnessed and

Carcass Utilisation Plant to be ready by December: Ashu

LUDHIANA, AUGUST 10

Punjab Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu on Monday informed that the upcoming Carcass Utilisation Plant near village Nurpur would be complete by December, this year. He said that the main purpose of this carcass plant would be the utilisation of carcass of fallen animal in an efficient pollution free environment, thus reduction in infectious diseases. **BPE**

appreciated the functioning of the lab.

Dr J P S Gill revealed that under the dynamism of Dr Ramneek, Dr A K Arora and Dr R S Sethi, the entire team of scientists and employees are working very diligently and dexterously for this lab.

All the facilities, products, publications and technologies developed by GADVASU were showcased in an impressive exhibition for dignitaries and other guests.

Automobile dealers sensitised under ‘Mission Fateh’

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

Continuing the awareness drive to tackle the coronavirus in the region, the mass media teams of the health department are visiting every industry and showroom to make sure that all the guidelines of the government are followed in view of COVID-19. On Monday, all three teams of the awareness drive visited automobile showrooms to make sure that they follow



all the protocols so that they can keep themselves and their customers safe from this pandemic.

Ludhiana Civil Surgeon

Dr Rajesh Kumar Bagga said that three teams have been deployed to work on the awareness regarding COVID-19 where they are

apprising people about all the preventive measures and also telling them to stay away from fake news and rumours and rely on COVA App.

Apart from this, the teams are also telling the owners to make adequate arrangement to check temperature of each and every person before entering the showroom. Hand sanitizing point or hand washing arrangement should be made at every entry point.

‘Smart City’ director urges govt to set up more hospitals in smart cities

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

Architect Sanjay Goel, Director of Ludhiana Smart City Limited – the SPV set up for execution of projects under ‘smart city mission’ have made a fervent plea with the Union government

to set up more hospitals in smart cities in the making under the centrally-sponsored nationwide scheme.

Goel, who also heads the Punjab state chapter of Indian Institute of Architects, said smart hospitals could provide best health services to citizens,

and further smart citizens could assist the government in execution of smart cities mission.

He emphasized that smart health was most important in society to produce more and more smart citizens. “Smart city mission can only be

achieved through support of healthy and educated citizens but unfortunately focus of government on quality and quantity of healthcare facilities seems to be still on the lower side in spite of ongoing COVID-19 crisis since March this year.”

Thieves take away tyres of car parked on road in posh locality

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

Unidentified persons stole four tyres of Hyundai Verna car parked outside the house in Sargodha colony on intervening night of Sunday and Monday. The thieves were captured in CCTV cameras.

According to owner of the car, he had parked his car outside his house in Sargodha colony. In the morning, he found that all the four tyres of his car were missing. When



he checked CCTV footage, he found that the accused came in a car and took away the tyres of the car. According to CCTV cameras, the incident occurred at around 2 am. Division Number 5 Police registered a case against unidentified persons in this context.

Dozen booths in GLADA market in Dugri under encroachment, riot victims demand probe and action against unlawful occupants

LUDHIANA, AUGUST 10

At least 12 booths in Guru Ram Das Market, Phase I, Dugri, constructed by the Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) are under unlawful occupation for last several years. Since the market was developed for rehabilitation of the victims of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the ‘Sikh Danga Pirit Action Committee’ has demanded a high level probe and action as per law against the

unlawful occupants as well as the concerned officials of GLADA.

In a complaint to the Punjab Chief Minister with copies to the senior officials of Housing and Urban Development, Punjab and GLADA, Sukhwant Singh and Sukhbir Singh, president and secretary of the society respectively, have alleged that booth numbers 3, 6, 9, 18, 64, 82, 135, 313, 314, 315, 317 and 318 in the said market were never allotted by GLADA to any riot victims. **BPE**

Beopar Mandal meets DETC, discusses several issues



LUDHIANA, AUGUST 10

A deputation of Punjab Pradesh Beopar Mandal under the leadership of state general secretary Sunil Mehra, state secretary Mohinder Aggarwal and chairman Pawan Lehar met DETC Tejvir Singh Sidhu on Monday and discussed some important issues.

The deputation apprised the officer about the problems being faced by the traders. Both Sunil Mehra and Mo-

hinder Aggarwal apprised Sidhu that the government should settle the old cases of the traders by getting one-time payment. They opined that with this, the government would earn revenue and traders would get relief. They revealed that the predecessor SAD-BJP government had taken a decision to this effect but it had not been implemented after change of the state government in Punjab. **BPE**

PAU experts explain water saving technologies

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

The Skill Development Centre, Directorate of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), organized a two-day online training course on ‘Precision Technologies for

Water Saving and its Re-charging’ for the in-service candidates. Sixteen candidates participated in this training course, held under the guidance of Dr Jaskarn Singh Mahal, Director of Extension Education, PAU.

Dr Tejinder Singh Riar, Associate Director, Skill



Development Centre, said

Two more private hospitals start COVID-19 treatment in their premises

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

Due to the persistent efforts of district administration, two more private hospitals have started COVID Care Centres in their premises from Monday onwards. These include 25-bedded centre at Verma Super Speciality Hospital near DMCH and 10-bedded centre at Arora Neuro Centre on Mall Road, here.

Deputy Commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma and Commissioner of Police Rakesh Kumar Agrawal on Monday visited both the hospitals and thanked the hospital managements for assisting the district administration in this hour of need.

It is pertinent to mention that with the efforts of Punjab Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Ludhiana has already started 25-bedded ‘IMA Ludhiana COVID Care Centre’ at the Lord Mahavira Homeopathic

Medical College and Hospital, Hambran Road, here.

Sharma assured the residents that there is no shortage of beds for COVID-19 treatment in district Ludhiana. He said that people should not panic and check the status of vacant beds

forward and set up COVID Care Centres in their premises so that they can make real service towards the society during today’s testing times.

Commissioner of Police Rakesh Kumar Agrawal said that the COVID Care Centre at the capacity of Verma Super Speciality



through mobile app ‘HBMS Punjab’ or on official web links “https://ludhiana.nic.in/notice/covid-19-bed-status-in-ludhiana-district/” or “www.hbmspunjab.in”. He said that data of all private hospitals providing COVID-19 treatment has been added on the mobile app as well as the web links.

He urged managements of other private hospitals to also come

Hospital can be extended up to 40-bedded in the coming days as per the requirement. He said that this facility has 7 level-2 beds while 18 level-3 beds. He said that he is hopeful that more private hospitals would start COVID-19 treatment in the coming few days.

ADC (Development)-cum-Nodal Officer COVID-19 Sandeep Kumar was also present on the occasion.

72-year-old patient defeats COVID-19 after 27 days

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

Fortis Hospital, Ludhiana has discharged a 72-year-old male patient from Batala with severe COVID-19 after 27 days. Patient was admitted on July 11. Patient had complaints of severe breathlessness. Patient also had very low oxygen level. Immediately patient was taken care and preliminary investigation keeping in mind of COVID-19. CT scan of chest showed severe pneumonia on both sides. Patient also had underlying destroyed lung due to previous lung and other diseases. He was also requiring oxygen at home previously. Patient was immediately taken in ICU with life support systems.



During this period, patient had a stormy course with oxygen requirement up to 90 per cent, but he fought well and came out as a winner. It was told by the treating team of Dr Vinay Singhal, Additional Director and Head, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Dr Sushil Gupta, Senior Consultant, Pulmonology and Dr Harminder

Singh Pannu, Director, Internal Medicine that it is welcome news in these tough times.

Seeing this kind of recovery in sick patients gives you much needed encouragement. It gives us more energy to work harder and serve the mankind. Patient and their relatives thanked doctors and staff for taking a very good care.

Health department seals factory manufacturing ghee, refined oil

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 10

The health department team and Ludhiana Police conducted a raid at a factory located in Sham Nagar on Monday where Desi ghee and refined oil were being manufactured.

Suspecting sub-standard ghee and refined, the health department has collected the samples of products and sent it to laboratory. The health department has also sealed the factory. According to health department officials,

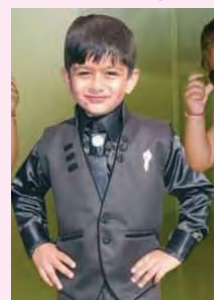
following the information of sub-standard desi ghee and refined oil manufacturing, they have conducted raid in the factory and seized 2 quintal desi ghee, 30 kg refined oil, 150 kg Vanaspati oil and skimmed milk powder. The samples of all four items were sent to laboratory and action would be taken according to the report of food items. The officials said that the items were being prepared in unhygienic condition and the factory was sealed till the report is awaited.

LIC provides opportunity for policyholders to revive their lapsed policies

LUDHIANA, AUGUST 10

It has been decided to launch a Special Revival Campaign from Monday to October 9 for its customers to revive their individual lapsed LIC policies. In view of the prevailing circumstances, no concessions are being offered in medical requirements and the same are limited to late fee only; under plans other than term assurance and other high risk plans. **BPE**

Happy Birthday



Lovish Gujral

Special congratulations from K.S.BEDI & POOJA BEDI

Police action in hooch tragedy must be conclusive

In yet another significant seizure on Sunday, Punjab Police has confiscated massive 27,600 litres of chemicals containing spirit from a Dera Bassi firm. This, as per Police, has a trail leading to another big catch it had laid bare two weeks prior and had recovered 5300 litres of chemicals and spirit from another firm. Police have in last ten 10 days busted several spurious liquor modules too, with one busted in Majitha on Saturday.

No doubt Punjab Police has hunkered down to exposing illicit liquor trade after unfortunate hooch tragedy claimed over 120 lives. Over 29,000 Litres of illicit liquor, besides 12,599 Litres of licit liquor and more than 5,82,000 KGs of Lahan, along with 20,960 Litres of Alcohol/Spirits, have been seized after deaths were reported from three Majha districts of Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur and Amritsar. Over 70 working stills were also recovered and total of 1489 FIRs have been registered with more than 1000 persons arrested since the action began on 31st July.

The Police alacrity is reassuring, but also raises many questions. The grim reminder is that there had been so many illicit liquor smugglers and operators, now arrested or exposed after CM took serious note and ordered magisterial enquiry into what he termed as 'Man-made tragedy and a murder'. The huge immediate recoveries of illicit liquor now underpin the impunity and patronage these criminals must have been operating under. There is a widespread valid impression that these groups could not have operated without some political or police protection leading to inexorable public pressure on government to act against them. The anger is palpable and it has created a lot of political heat within the ruling party and outside.

The Chief Minister has vowed strictest action against anyone including any politician or police officer if found involved. The incumbent Congress had won back power after a ten year hiatus in 2017 promising eradication of drugs from state. Now is the opportunity to redeem that pledge. Police and political class must demonstrate firm resolve to put an end to this scourge which has destroyed a generation of youngsters with Punjab having to face embarrassment for its drug state tag. This is part SAD BJP rule legacy and part lack of action by present dispensation. With elections just 18 months away, the issue needs resolution for any party to face people again. A quick, impartial and time-bound enquiry is what people want to unearth those responsible for this devastation. Nothing else should suffice.

Towards self-reliance

In another step towards self-reliance in the defence sector, the government of India has announced a negative import list of 101 defence items. The banned list includes sniper rifle, ship-borne cruise missiles, short-range surface to air missiles, light combat aircraft and helicopter, fixed wing mini UAVs, wheeled armoured fighting vehicle, light machine gun and assault rifle. Lack of indigenous defence base has acted a major constraint on India's strategic rise in the world. This is what has forced the government to think in terms of developing domestic defence industry by making it difficult for defence forces to get them from abroad. This has become more urgent in the recent past, especially after the 1999 Kargil war. The government had announced a Make in India programme in 2014 but it has made only a limited progress so far.

The announcement made by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with regard to the negative list has revived the memories with regard to the return of the licence permit raj of the pre-liberalisation era. However, the domestic defence industry has been pleading for protection from imports for quite a while. A major issue with the domestic defence industry has been the absence of a commitment from the armed forces on procuring a defence item that was developed and produced in India. By putting certain items on the embargo list and creating a separate budget head for domestic capital procurement, the government has sent a firm reassuring signal to the indigenous industry. The list of banned items has been put together by the defence services. They have thus become an equally important stakeholder in this scheme. The programme has been developed by the newly-created Department of Military Affairs under the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Bipin Rawat.

This however, does not mean that there will be no difficulties in future in this sector. The promise of contracts worth almost Rs 4 lakh crore to the domestic industry over the next 5-7 years appears impressive but the proof of the pudding is in its eating. The negative list consists of many items like corvettes and frigates for the Navy and multi-barrel rocket launchers for the Army are already being manufactured in India. But bureaucratic red tape will have to be cut. For instance, items like the 7.62 X 39 mm assault rifle to be produced by the Ordnance Factory Board in Amethi with Russian collaboration are stuck over pricing issues. Some other items in the list are under development by domestic industry, and are not produced by any other country. These include the Light Combat Helicopter and the light transport aircraft – and any Indian demand for these will automatically be met domestically.

SPIRITUAL WORLD

ਕਬੀਰ ਗਰਬੁ ਨ ਕੀਜੀਐ
ਰੰਕੁ ਨ ਹਸੀਐ ਕੋਇ॥
ਅਜਹੁ ਸੁ ਨਾਉ ਸਮੁੰਦ੍ਰ ਮਹਿ
ਕਿਆ ਜਾਨਉ ਕਿਆ ਹੋਇ॥

ਕਬੀਰ ਜੀ ਆਖਦੇ ਹਨ, ਜੇ ਤੂੰ ਧਨਵਾਨ ਹੈਂ, ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਧਨ-ਪਦਾਰਥ ਦਾ ਮਾਣ ਨਾ ਕਰੀਂ, ਨਾ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੰਗਾਲ ਦਾ ਮਜ਼ਾਕ ਉਡਾਵੀਂ।
ਤੁਹੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਜੀਵਨ-ਬੋਝੀ ਅਜੇ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਵਿਚ ਹੈ, ਪਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਹ ਹੋ ਜਾਏ (ਇਹ ਧਨ-ਪਦਾਰਥ ਹੱਥੋਂ ਜਾਇਆਂ ਦੇਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੱਗਦੀ)।

Kabeer Ji says, O man do not be proud of your wealth, & do not laugh at the poor.
Your life-boat is still out at sea; who knows what will happen?

‘Cricketaiainment’ will be back once again

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

One does not see a major change as regards cricket being played on the ground. However, the important ingredient missing will be the screams and shouts of the spectators and from the die-hard local fans

The postponement of the T20 World Cup gave BCCI the opportunity to conduct their most popular ‘cricketainment’ tournament -- the Indian Premier League (IPL). Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible to stage cricket's premium show in India. The BCCI have, therefore, opted to hold it in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the blessing of the Emirates Cricket Board. The IPL is much more than just cricket entertainment when Indian cricket and cricketers are concerned. The financial gains that the BCCI derives from it is what keeps Indian cricket blossoming at home and also makes the BCCI into a powerful cricket body internationally. It brings in the stability that the BCCI requires to keep it as the top cricketing body in the world. For the international and domestic cricketers, IPL is a wonderful opportunity to earn a living. The established ones require it to save for their future, whereas, for the youngsters it helps them get their life in order. This is very important in a cricketer's life as with the advent of professionalism that has crept into cricket, the chance of skilling oneself in any other profession has become extremely difficult.

The IPL is just in its 13th year and it has already become one of the prime sporting events on the world sports map. The cricket starved fans will finally see their heroes back on the cricket field. The IPL will be just the enter-



tainment they were looking for, especially as the coronavirus has subjected everyone to keep indoors.

The mushrooming of the fantasy league gaming sites, wherein, the options of selecting ones team of players through a wager has made T20 cricket even more interesting to watch. This has brought an interest to many people who through these sites can bet and maybe claim a big win in return. Gambling is one of the foremost reasons for the success of the shorter format of the game, as with a definite result and with plenty of permutations and combinations to choose from, especially in the T20 version, the opportunities to try out one's luck are plenty.

The BCCI, on the other hand, has an enormous task in organising the IPL in the UAE. The league was played on two occasions outside Indian shores with a full-fledged version in South Africa in 2008 and a few of the initial matches in the UAE in 2012. But on both these occasions nothing more than the facilities to host the game were necessary.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation entirely different with the IPL teams and the support staff cocooned in a bio-secure bubble. This, there-

fore, will be a completely different ball game not only for the players but also for the administrators. Although England did manage to successfully organise three Test matches against the West Indies recently, however, for the BCCI to do so with eight participating teams, will definitely be a huge challenge.

One does not see a major change as regards cricket being played on the ground. However, the important ingredient missing will be the screams and shouts of the spectators and from the die-hard local fans.

The IPL 2020 will need to get its unique identity as to the way in which it will be projected to the fans and followers. The entertainment would have to have a touch of innovative creation. One is, therefore, looking forward as to how Star Sports, the IPL sponsors and the franchises will create their own bubble of not only keeping their loyal fans alive but also keeping them active if their team is not faring well.

The digital world has progressed by leaps and bounds and creating visuals, virtual images and an atmosphere of imaginary spectators and noise, one feels, could be something one may see in this year's IPL.

Unfortunately, players will not

be available for get-togethers and live events and sponsors will need to find ways by which to interact with them through chat shows and interactive virtual sessions.

T20 has always been a format that has shown itself to be very popular. Some of the leagues held by a few of the Indian cricket state associations have proven to be successful even without well-known international players. Therefore, one does not see any issues regarding millions of viewers watching the games on television or on their mobiles. It is how they will be entertained, kept involved and interested that will be the challenge for the providers.

Rajasthan Royals will be a side that will be followed closely as they have the master batsman Steve Smith, the world's best all-round cricketer Ben Stokes and the new sensational fast bowler Jofra Archer. However, all eyes will be on Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the man who has for over a decade captured the hearts of every Indian cricket lover. Dhoni, the master craftsman again on the cricket field will be a sight to savor, a cricketer who has been the epitome of cricketainment.

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former Test cricketer. Views expressed are personal)



‘China’s BRI ultimate instrument of economic blackmail’

VISHNU MAKHIJANI

For the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), determined to shape the world in its own image without a shot being fired, the Cold War never ended 30 years ago as it aims to make China the number one global power, says a scholarly new work that traces how the party has been relentlessly going about the reshaping. To this end, the Bridge and Road Initiative (BRI) is the ultimate instrument of economic blackmail through which Beijing is changing the post-war international order, the book says. “Hidden Hand - Exposing How the Chinese Communist Party is Reshaping the World” by renowned academics Clive Hamilton and Mareike Ohlberg, comes with a chilling caveat: While it focuses on the “what, why and how of the CCP's influence, interference and subversion” in North America and Western Europe, the party's “enterprise is geared towards reordering the entire world, and that while the form varies, the experience of the West is very similar to that of countries around the globe”.

“It's hard to think of any nation that has not been extensively targeted, from Samoa to Ecuador, from the Maldives to Botswana,” Hamilton, an Australian academic and author, and Ohlberg, a



senior fellow in the Asia Program of the German Marshall Fund, write. The book notes that while analysts on both sides of the Atlantic continue to agonise over whether to label China an opponent or even an enemy, “the CCP decided this matter thirty years ago. In the post-Soviet world, it saw itself surrounded by enemies that it needed to defeat or neutralise”.

While the CCP and its supporters in the West like to speak of a ‘new Cold War’ being waged against China, the Party itself has all along been engaged in an ideological struggle against ‘hostile forces’. “For the CCP, the Cold War never ended,” the book says, adding: “The reshaping of alliances and the remoulding of the way the world thinks about it are essential to the Party securing continued rule at home, as well as to its reach and eventually making China the number one

global power.” Ignorance, say the authors, explains some of the difficulty the West is having in coming to grips with the threat of the CCP, as does the fact that it has not previously had to contend with such an adversary.

“During the Cold War, no Western country had a deep economic relationship with the Soviet Union. Conscious of the economic and strategic importance of China, many nations are trying to get smarter about the country at the very time Beijing is pouring money” into helping the world to “better understand” China, the book says - and points to the BRI as a major example of this. Terming China the “world's master practitioner of the dark arts of economic statecraft” the book says the BRI “is the ultimate instrument of economic statecraft or, more accurately, economic blackmail”. This is because it provides an outlet for China's construction industry and enormous capital reserves,

while at the same time supplying the investment needs of other countries that are short of capital and excluded from mainstream sources of finance. The offer of low-interest loans is hard to resist, especially when they come without environmental or other conditions, the book says.

However, the objectives of the BRI, also known as the New Silk Road, “go well beyond providing an outlet for surplus Chinese capital or helping poorer nations develop; the initiative is Beijing's primary mechanism for reordering the global geopolitical system”.

President Xi Jinping's signature policy is now so closely integrated with almost all Chinese government activity abroad - commercial, technological, academic, cultural - that it cannot be separated from Beijing's overall diplomatic engagement. Xi has repeatedly referred to the BRI as essential to his vision of constructing “a community of common destiny for humankind” and while the idea might sound good to Western ears, “its aim is a Sino-centric world; that is, the one envisaged by the hawks elevated by Xi to the top leadership positions”. They view a China-led world order as an essential part of what is termed the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese people”, the book says.

“So, the BRI is the most powerful vehicle by which Beijing is

changing the post-war international order,” the authors write.

“Like other so-called parallel institutions created by the Chinese government, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the BRI pretends to pose no challenge to countries' existing institutions, while incrementally realigning their interests and shifting the global balance of power. “A key part of the CCP's thinking on global and regional power dynamics is the identification of a ‘main contradiction’ and a ‘main enemy’ to unite against. On a global scale, that enemy is the United States, which needs to be split from its allies and isolated,” the book contends. It's a lesson key Indian stakeholders - security experts, academics, economists and last but not the least, the media - need to keep in mind, particularly in the light of the troubles on the northern border.

(Vishnu Makhijani can be reached at vishnu.makhijani@ians.in)

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NEWS BRIEFS

Heavy rain alert in Karnataka districts

BENGALURU: Heavy to very heavy rainfall alert has been issued for 13 districts in Karnataka after the state's coastal districts witnessed heavy downpour, an official said on Monday. "The intensity of rainfall has reduced, but there is an orange alert for Malnad districts," an official from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said. The alert has been issued for Coastal Karnataka districts Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, Bagalkote, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur and Yadgir in the north of the state, and Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu and Shivamogga in the south of the state. In the past 24 hours, Nada gram panchayat of Byndoor taluk in Udupi district has recorded the maximum amount of rainfall at 284 mm. **IANIS**

Strict COVID protocols for Sabarimala season

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government will enforce strict COVID protocols for the two-month long Sabarimala temple season. The decision was taken at a preliminary meeting held on Monday in the state capital to discuss arrangements at the hill shrine that opens on November 16. The meeting was called by State Devasswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran who said that all pilgrims who wish to pray at the temple must carry a COVID negative certificate with them. "With COVID now around, we can go forward with the festival season in a very tight and rigid manner and all those coming should register in the Virtual Q system. **IANIS**

UGC in SC questions decisions by Delhi, Maha to cancel exams amid COVID-19 pandemic

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

The UGC in the Supreme Court on Monday questioned the decisions of Delhi and Maharashtra governments to cancel final year exams of state universities amid the COVID-19 pandemic, saying they were against the rules. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan that states cannot change the rules of the University Grants Commission as only the UGC is empowered to prescribe rules for conferring degree.

Mehta argued that not conducting exams will not be in the interest of students and degrees may not be recognized if the states would act unilaterally. The apex court was hearing a batch of pleas which have challenged the July 6 directive to all the universities and colleges to conduct final year examinations by September 30 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, Mehta informed the bench about the decisions of Delhi and Maharashtra to cancel final year exams of state universities. He said that the UGC would file its response on the affidavits filed by Maharashtra and Delhi in the matter.

The bench granted time to the UGC to file response and posted the matter for further hearing on August 14. Advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, appearing for some of the petitioners, claimed that the July 6

guideline for holding exams are neither legal or constitutionally valid. He also raised the issue regarding guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for educational institutions amid the pandemic.

The top court had on July 31 refused to pass any interim order on the pleas. The UGC had earlier told the court that nobody should remain under the impression that since the Supreme Court is examining this issue, the final year /semester examination would be stayed. The solicitor general had informed the

HIGHLIGHTS

■ The apex court was hearing a batch of pleas which have challenged the July 6 directive to all the universities and colleges to conduct final year examinations by September 30 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

■ The bench granted time to the UGC to file response and posted the matter for further hearing on August 14.

bench that out of over 800 universities in the country, 209 have completed the examinations while around 390 universities are in the process of conducting exams. **IANIS**

Palghar lynchings: 28 accused granted 'default' bail

PALGHAR (MAHA), AUGUST 9

In the first such instance in the sensational Palghar lynching case, 28 arrested accused, whose names do not figure in the CID charge sheet filed in July, were granted bail on Monday though only some of them will be released, a lawyer said.

Dahanu Court Judicial Magistrate M V Jawale granted bail on a bond of Rs 30,000 each to the accused whose names figure on the CID remand application. "This is de-

fault bail since the names of these accused are not mentioned in the charge sheet.

I shall be filing the bail applications of a few other accused against whom there are less serious charges before the Thane Sessions Court this week," defence lawyer Amrut Adhikari said.

However, of these 28, only 10 will be freed since the remaining 18 also figure in the third CID charge sheet filed on August 6 before the Dahanu court. **IANIS**

NIA team in UAE to probe Kerala gold smuggling case

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

A two-member National Investigation Agency (NIA) team has gone to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in connection with its probe into the Kerala gold smuggling case, sources said on Monday. A top NIA official associated with the probe said: "The NIA team reached Dubai last night to investigate the gold smuggling case," adding that it will collect evidence on the involvement, if any, of Kerala officials. The source said that the NIA team will also interrogate key accused Fazil Fareed and a couple of others who have been taken into custody by the UAE authorities.

The NIA took over the case last month. The gold smuggling case first surfaced when PS Sarith, a former employee of the UAE Consulate in Kerala, was arrested by the Customs on July 5 when he was allegedly trying to facilitate the smuggling of 30 kg gold at the Trivandrum airport in Thiruvananthapuram through diplomatic baggage from Dubai. **IANIS**

'Rahul Gandhi's objections to draft EIA unnecessary and premature'

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Those raising objections to the draft environment impact assessment (EIA) notification are the same people who took "big decisions without consultations" when they were in power, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Monday, hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi had on Sunday tweeted that the draft EIA was a "disaster" and urged people to protest against it. Speaking to the media after an event to celebrate World Elephant Day, Javadekar said, "Saw reaction of some leaders demanding protest against the EIA draft. How can they protest against the draft? It is not a final notification. It was kept for public consultation for 150 days because of COVID-19. Otherwise it is only 60 days as per rules." "We have received thousands of suggestions which we welcome. We will consider



This EIA 2020 draft is a disaster. It seeks to silence the voice of communities who will be directly impacted by the environmental degradation it unleashes. I urge every Indian to rise up and protest against it.

those suggestions. Then take a call and come out with final draft. So people jumping just on the draft is not fair practice.

Those who want to now protest, during their regime took many of the big decisions without consultations. It is unnecessary and premature. I have mentioned it in my letter to (Congress leader and former Union minister) Jairam Ramesh," the min-

ister said. "It (Gandhi's comment on EIA and demanding protests) is unnecessary and premature," Javadekar said. Gandhi had on Sunday tweeted, "This EIA 2020 draft is a disaster. It seeks to silence the voice of communities who will be directly impacted by the environmental degradation it unleashes. I urge every Indian to rise up and protest against it." **PTI**



Police personnel rehearse for the Independence Day parade, at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Monday.

PTI

DELHI/NCR

BJP chief asks AAP govt to specify number of people employed through its job portal

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Monday accused the AAP government of "misleading" people on the employment issue, and sought to know how many jobs were provided through its recently launched job portal. The Delhi government had on July 27 launched the job portal and appealed to the traders, industrialists and people to join hands to revive Delhi's economy.

Addressing a press conference, Gupta claimed that only 334 people got jobs in an employment scheme started by the Arvind Kejriwal government two years ago. "The Kejriwal govern-



ment is again misleading the people of Delhi by re-launching the failed employment scheme," he alleged. There was no immediate reaction from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on the allegation.

Delhi Employment Minister Gopal Rai had last week said 8.64 lakh job aspirants have registered with the government's 'Rozgar Bazaar' job portal. **PTI**

707 fresh cases take Delhi's COVID-19 tally to 1,46,134; death toll climbs to 4,131

HIGHLIGHTS

- The active cases tally on Monday fell to 10,346, from 10,729 the previous day.
- On June 23, the national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3947, till date.
- The death toll from coronavirus infection has risen to 4,131 and the total number of cases climbed to 1,46,134.

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Delhi recorded 707 fresh coronavirus cases on Monday, taking the tally in the city to over 1.46 lakh, while the death toll from the disease mounted to 4,131, authorities said. The number of tests conducted on Monday stood at 12,323.

Twenty fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

From August 2 to 4, daily cases gradually dropped, showing a three-figure count: August 2 (961), August 3 (805) and August 4



(674). However, from August 5 to 9, the daily cases have been recorded in excess of 1,000, falling again to a three-figure count on August 10. On Sunday, the daily cases count was 1,300 and 13 deaths were reported. The active cases tally on Monday fell to 10,346, from 10,729 the previous day.

On June 23, the national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3947, till date.

The death toll from COVID-19 in Delhi stood at 4,111 on Sunday. The Monday bulletin said, the death toll from coronavirus infection has risen to 4,131 and the total number of cases climbed to 1,46,134. **PTI**

Work on setting up of Delhi smog tower has begun: SC told

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea to reconsider its decision for setting up of smog tower in Delhi, as a pilot project to combat the menace of air pollution, and the Centre informed the apex court that work on the project has already begun.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked the Delhi Chief Secretary to file affidavit on the present status of 13 pollution hotspots in the national capital and also apprise it on the measures taken to control the pollution level. A counsel appearing for the petitioner, who filed an intervention application in the matter, contended before the bench that the

smog towers will not only lead to money making by Chinese companies but also has no scientific basis.

Justice Mishra said the arguments have no merit and the court is not willing to recall its order on the construction of smog towers. The bench declined to entertain the plea. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta representing the Centre informed the bench that the University of Minnesota, is the licensee sharing the scope of deliverables and scope of transfer of technology and submitted that a joint affidavit has been filed by the Centre and CPCB. The IIT Bombay and TATA projects have tied up with University of Minnesota as it is a patented protected innovation, added Mehta. **PTI**

Will give digital degrees online to pass outs who haven't received them, DU tells High Court

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

In a relief to those who graduated from Delhi University up till last year but did not receive their degrees, the varsity has activated an online portal for issuance of digital degree certificates to speed up the process, the Delhi High Court has been informed. The university submitted before the High Court that the students have to register on an online portal www.digicerti.du.ac.in, and



give their details including academic qualification and name of their college and after completion of the verification, the digital degree certificates will be issued by DU within a week. The submissions were made before

Justice Prathiba M Singh, who was hearing various petitions by 21 doctors who completed MBBS graduation in 2018 and 2019 from Lady Hardinge Medical College, Maulana Azad Medical College and University College of Medical Sciences, affiliated with the DU, but have not received their degree certificates till date on the ground that the contract with the printer had expired.

Regarding these peti-

tioners, the court directed that the digital degree certificates for all of them be issued by email, on or before August 13, as they wish to apply for their residency programmes in the United States and to sit in the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). August 15 is the last date by which the degree certificates would have to be uploaded for processing to the My ECFMG mobile application. **PTI**

15 pc students enrolled in Delhi govt schools not traceable since lockdown, not attending e-classes

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Close to 15 per cent students enrolled in Delhi government schools are not "traceable" since the lockdown was announced and have not been attending the alternative classes conducted online or through phones, according to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister, said efforts are being made to locate these students either physically or telephonically



to get them into the system. "We are conducting full fledged teaching learning either online or through phones and teachers have been instructed to ensure personal involvement with each student. So far, there

There are certain students who have gone to places like Uttarakhand and Bihar but are still connected with us and are attending the classes and doing assignments

are maximum 15 per cent students who are not traceable and are not in contact with their schools and hence not attending the classes," Sisodia said.

"I have been reviewing this personally and we have

been able to trace few students, for others either they are not staying at the same addresses or their phone numbers mentioned in our records are not traceable. I have asked that School Management Committees (SMCs) should be roped in to track these students. There are certain students who have gone to places like Uttarakhand and Bihar but are still connected with us and are attending the classes and doing assignments," he added. **PTI**

One more succumbs to COVID-19 in HP

LG condemns killing of BJP leader in J&K's Budgam

PDP youth leader joins Apni Party in Jammu

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Speaking to reporters after the oath-taking cer-

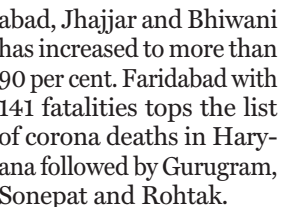


emony, the LG said that his mission is to ensure all-round development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Thursday, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader was appointed Jammu and Kashmir's LG. **IAN**

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Rajendra Khattri
Chandigarh, August 10

However, in twenty-four hours, more patients were exposed to infection than recovery. Overall recovery has improved to some extent. Patients are doubling now in 28 days. So far 483 Corona patients have died in Haryana. Recovery rate of 4 Haryana districts, namely Gurugram, Farid-



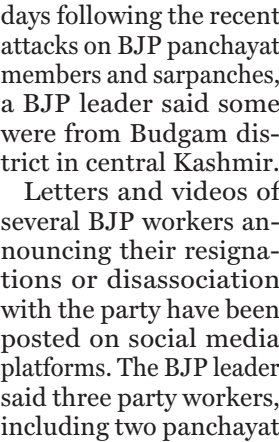
state has increased to 83.32 per cent, the rate of infection remains at 5.64 per cent. The total number of infected patients in Haryana has now increased to 41,635.

The total number of patients who died has also reached 474. As a precautionary measure health department officials say as many as 59,614 patients are still under medical surveillance. A sample report of 5956 suspected patients

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10

Nearly a dozen BJP workers in Kashmir have resigned from the party following recent attacks on village-level leaders by militants, which prompted the party to suggest hostel-type secure accommodation for its members and their families in each district in the Valley.

Worries have escalated after Abdul Hamid Najar, BJP's OBC morcha district president from Budgam, died at a hospital early on Monday, a day after he was shot at in his village. Admitting that several party workers, most of them lower-rung activists, have resigned over the last few



members and a sarpanch from Kulgam district of south Kashmir, have resigned from the party. There is one from Handwara, one from Kupwara and one from Sopore as well, he added.

BJP media in-charge Manzoor Bhat dismissed the resignations as of no consequence. These all are lower rung workers. This will not affect the party, Bhat said. **PTI**

Pakistani troops opened fire on forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday in violation of a ceasefire agreement, a defence spokesman said. The unprovoked firing from across the border started in the Balakote sector around 10.15 am and was given a befitting response by Indian Army personnel guarding the LoC, the spokesman said. He said the cross-border firing between the two sides was going on when last reports were received. However, there was no report of any casualty, the spokesman said. PT

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Sushil Kumar Sharma
Shimla, August 10

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching a financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups, agri-tech players and farmer groups for post-harvest management and nurturing farm assets.



prices, reduce wastage and increase processing and value addition, he added.

Chief Minister said this fund would go a long way in strengthening the economy of the farmers and horticulturists by creating infrastructure facilities such as modern cold storage chains in villages besides exploring opportunities to invest in post harvest management solutions such as warehousing and

JAMMU, AUGUST 10

The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday indicted seven persons including five revenue officials and a priest in a nine-year-old case of fraudulent sale of over 18.75 acres of temple land here. The ACB indicted the seven in a charge sheet filed in the special anti-corruption court against them, three of whom have already expired during the probe into the case, an ACB spokesperson said.

He said the accused in the case include former Patwari Dalip Singh, the then Naib Tehsildar Manohar Singh, erstwhile Tehsildars Shanti Saroop and Surinder Gupta (both dead) and former Patwari Babu Ram (expired) besides Mahant Baba Ram.

JAMMU, AUGUST 10

Shah Faesal, who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and floated the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) last year, has resigned as its president, the party said on Monday. Faesal had dropped a hint about stepping away from politics on Sunday as he edited his personal details on Twitter, removing the reference to his political affiliations. He could not be contacted for comments. The JKPM's executive committee held an online meeting on Monday to discuss the ongoing political developments in the state, the party said in a statement. "In the meeting, request of Dr Shah Faesal to spare him from the organisational responsibilities was discussed. PTI



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Shimla, August 10

Himachal Pradesh government will get farmers engaged in natural farming under 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan' yojna certified. In a review meeting of task force on Natural Farming held at HP secretariat recently, Chief Secretary Anil Khachi directed the agriculture officials to complete the certification of farmers.

Chief Secretary said that, it is necessary to certify the farmers engaged in natural farming so that they could get better market and price. He also emphasised on the

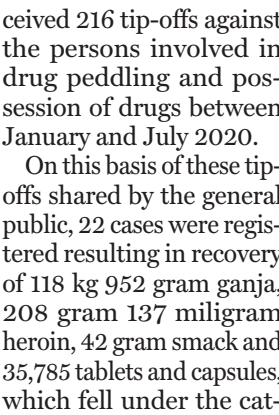


Till date 54,914 farmers have started farming through natural farming method. He said that govt. will certify at least 15,000 farmers by the end of this financial year. The Chief Secretary was made aware of the ongoing research on natural farming by the director of research of Palam-

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 10

Inter-state drug secretariat that was set up to effectively tackle the drug menace in country's northern region has started cracking down on drug-peddlers as it has helped field units in recovery of 119 kg and 202 gram of narcotics and over 35,500 banned tablets/capsules during the first 7 months of year 2020.

Giving this information here on Monday, a Haryana police spokesperson informed that secretariat helpline numbers had re-



egory of banned drugs. In addition, police have also seized 23 kg 982 gram of drugs including heroin, ganja, smack, charas as well as 36,610 banned tablets and capsules on the basis of 299 tip-offs shared by general public about drug peddlers through helpline numbers between May and December, last year.

The spokesperson urged the people to come fearlessly and share information about sale, purchase and consumption of drugs and narcotic substances with the police at helpline number 1800-180-1314.

NEWSBRIEFS

1 dead, 20 injured in Washington D.C. shooting

WASHINGTON: One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a shooting in a Washington D.C., according to authorities. The shooting took place at around 1 a.m. on Sunday at a residential neighbourhood in the U.S. capital, reports Xinhua news agency. The victim was identified as the 17-year-old Christopher Brown, his family confirmed to CBS Washington D.C. affiliate WUSA-TV. At least nine people were taken to nearby hospitals after the shooting, a police spokesman said. A witness told local media that the incident took place at a birthday party. No further details were immediately available. **IANIS**

Typhoon Jangmi makes landfall in S. Korea

SEOUL: Typhoon Jangmi, the season's first, made landfall in South Korea on Monday, keeping the country on alert over possible damages following the deadly downpours that recently battered its central region. The typhoon landed on the southern tip of Geoje Island near Tongyeong in South Gyeongsang province after forming at seas some 600 km southwest of Okinawa, Japan, on Sunday, reports Yonhap News Agency. It was forecast to move away from the country toward the East **IANIS**

Indonesia's Mount Sinabung volcano erupts

JAKARTA: Mount Sinabung in Indonesia's North Sumatra province erupted on Monday, spewing a 5,000 metre-high column of ash to the sky. The 2,475 metre-high Mt. Sinabung is under an alert status, a local volcanology agency was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency. In case of rains of ash, locals were expected to wear face masks outdoors to reduce health impacts, the agency said in a statement, adding that residents were also expected to keep unpolluted water and clean up their house roofs from thick volcanic ash to avoid possible collapses. **IANIS**

Israel resumes outdoor concerts, shows

TEL AVIV: The Israeli government has allowed outdoor entertainment and cultural events to resume under COVID-19 restrictions. After a meeting held by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as finance, health and culture ministers with performers and producers' representatives, it was agreed on Sunday that shows and concerts would be allowed under restrictions, reports Xinhua news agency. The audience will be divided into small groups of 20 people each, while keeping distance between groups during the event. According to an official statement, in the coming weeks, another plan will be formulated for resuming indoor cultural and entertainment events depending on morbidity level in each city. Earlier on Sunday, Israel's coronavirus cabinet approved new restrictions including a ban on more than three people in a vehicle except for family members living in the same house. **IANIS**

China sanctions 11 US politicians

BEIJING, AUGUST 10

China has announced unspecified sanctions against 11 US politicians and heads of organizations promoting democratic causes, including Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, who have already been singled out by Beijing.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Monday said the 11 had performed badly on issues concerning Hong Kong, where China has cracked down on opposition voices following its imposition of a national security law in the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city last month. The number of Americans named by the ministry exactly equals the number of Hong Kong and Chinese officials placed on a sanctions list by the US last week over the crack-



down. China showed its determination to defy such pressure on Monday by arresting leading independent media tycoon Jimmy Lai and raiding the publisher's headquarters. Others named by the foreign ministry included

Senators Josh Hawley and Tom Cotton and Representative Chris Smith. Heads of organisations

including the National Endowment for Democracy and Freedom House were also named. Beijing already placed a travel ban on Rubio, Cruz and Smith last month after Washington announced similar measures against Chinese officials linked to measures taken against Muslims in the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang. **AP**

5 killed, 10 injured in Pakistan blast

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 10

A powerful bomb blast at a market in a Pakistani town bordering Afghanistan on Monday killed at least five people and injured 10 others, police said.

The blast occurred at the Haji Nida market of Chaman town in Balochistan province, according to police. Five people were killed and 10 others injured, police said. Nobody claimed



the responsibility of the attack. Militants and separatists belonging to the banned outfits have stepped up terror attacks in Balochistan in

Militants and separatists belonging to the banned outfits have stepped up terror attacks in Balochistan in recent weeks

recent weeks. At least one person was killed and six others were injured after an explosion in Turbat bazaar on July 21. **PTI**

Imran urges people to take precautions during Muharram

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 10

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged citizens to refrain from flouting standard operating procedures (SOPs) during Muharram despite a reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases. Speaking at a ceremony here on Sunday, he said: "Today Pakistan is among those few countries that have successfully managed to control the pandemic. 'This is a time for precaution. If God has blessed us, we need to

be thankful, and wear a mask." Muharram is one of the most important months for Muslims and marks the start of the Islamic New Year.

According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) data, the number of tests, which had dropped to around 11,000 during Eid-ul-Adha holidays, has increased again, with 23,390 people having been tested across the country during the past 24 hours, reports Dawn news. **IANIS**

Australia reports highest spike in daily COVID-19 deaths

MELBOURNE, AUGUST 10

Australia on Monday reported its highest daily coronavirus deaths with 19 fatalities during the last 24 hours, all in Victoria state, prompting the state premier to acknowledge that the COVID-19 health crisis was the "greatest challenge" faced by the province.

The country also registered 322 new cases of confirmed infections dur-



ing the same period, the lowest daily increase in the last 12 days.

The coronavirus has so far claimed 314 lives in Australia with 9,365 active cases. Notably, the jump from 200 to 300 virus deaths has taken just nine

days. On August 1, Australia reported its 200th COVID-19 death. At his daily COVID-19 update on Monday, Victoria state premier Daniel Andrews said the COVID-19 outbreak was "the greatest challenge" the state has ever faced. The number of new virus cases at 322 is the lowest daily increase in the last 12 days. All the deaths reported in the last 24 hours were from Victoria. **PTI**

Lebanon questions security chief, minister quits over blast

BEIRUT, AUGUST 10

A Lebanese judge on Monday began questioning the heads of the country's security agencies over last week's devastating blast in Beirut as another Cabinet minister resigned in protest. Judge Ghassan El Khoury began questioning Major General Tony

Saliba, the head of State Security, according to state-run National News Agency. It gave no further details, but other generals are scheduled to be questioned.

Justice Minister Marie-Claude Najm, who was sprayed with water and verbally attacked last week while visiting a



damaged area, meanwhile handed her resignation to the prime minister on Monday, the news agency said. She is the third Cabinet minister to resign over the blast. A Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Monday, amid speculation the government could resign en masse. If a total of seven out of

the 20 ministers resign, the Cabinet would effectively become a caretaker government. At least nine members of parliament have resigned. The August 4, blast killed 160 people and wounded about 6,000, in addition to destroying the country's main port and damaging large parts of the capital.

Losses from the blast are estimated to be between 10 billion to 15 billion, and nearly 300,000 people were left homeless in the immediate aftermath. The explosion is believed to have been caused by a fire that ignited a stockpile of explosive material that had been stored at the port since 2013. **AP**

Taliban ready to begin peace talks in a week: Spokesman

KABUL, AUGUST 10

The Taliban is ready to begin intra-Afghan negotiations within a week if the prisoner release process is completed, a spokesman of the militant group announced. The first round of talks expected to be held in Doha, will be led by Abbas Stanikzai, the former chief negotiator of the Taliban, TOLO News quoted spokesman Suhail Shaheen as saying in an interview with BBC Pashto on Sunday.

His remarks come hours after the Loya Jirga, the grand assembly of Afghan elders, approved the release of the remaining 400 high-value Taliban prisoners, a decision that was deemed a key hurdle to the start of the intra-Afghan negotiations. In response to a question on the Taliban's



willingness for a ceasefire, which was called for at the Jirga, Shaheen said: "The ceasefire is part of the intra-Afghan negotiations agenda that will be discussed there. It has been mentioned in the Doha agreement." He said that the Taliban has not attacked major provinces and has not tried to capture centres of provinces, referring to

a question on reduction in violence. "We also have not attacked the capital, Kabul. We have reduced violence," he said. Shaheen said the group has the will for peace, and cited its opening of the Qatar office as an example. He however, criticized a delay in the completion of the prisoner release process and said the group will

"We also have not attacked the capital, Kabul. We have reduced violence"

continue to implement its commitments to the agreement they signed with the US in Doha in February.

According to government data, out of the 400 prisoners in question, 156 of them have been sentenced to death, 105 of them are accused of murder, 34 of them are accused of kidnapping that led to murder, 51 of them are accused of drug smuggling, 44 of them are on the blacklist of the Afghan government and its allies, 6 of them are accused of other crimes, 4 are accused of unspecified crimes, TOLO News reported. **IANIS**

UK govt trying to reassure public over planned school reopenings

LONDON, AUGUST 10

The UK government is trying to reassure the citizens that schools in England will be safe to reopen fully in September, a Minister said on Monday.

Social Care Minister Helen Whately told the BBC that the government wants to keep schools open in the event of local lockdowns, adding that staff and pupils will



"immediately have access to testing" if they show symptoms. Schools in local lockdown areas such as Manchester and Leicester "should be still going

back" in September as it is "essential that children get back into schools this autumn term", she said.

Parents and teachers "have made huge efforts to keep children's education going" during lockdown, it's "just not the same thing" as children being in school. Asked about the possibility of teaching students on a week-on, week-off basis for areas with localised lockdown

restrictions, the Minister told the BBC: "Our priority is to make sure that children are fully back in school come the autumn."

Schools are set to reopen fully in England in September, prompting questions over whether other parts of society may need to close to lower coronavirus risk levels. Guidance on reopening has been published for England. There are separate plans for Wales, Northern Ireland and also Scotland, where schools are scheduled to return on Tuesday. **IANIS**

Face masks now mandatory in many parts of Paris

PARIS, AUGUST 10

The mandatory wearing of face masks while outdoors in many parts of Paris came into effect on Monday, after authorities imposed new measures to curb COVID-19 spread in the French capital.

The order applies to people aged 11 and over in crowded areas, such as along the banks of the river Seine and open-air markets, the BBC quoted the police as saying. More than 100 streets are covered by the order,

according to a list sent out by the police. However, some popular tourist hotspots, such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Elysees and the Eiffel Tower, are exempt from the new rules. Face masks are already compulsory in enclosed public spaces in France.

Violators risk of a fine of 135 euros. After a strict lockdown, France had flattened the curve of new infections but, since the start of July, cases have been on the rise again. **IANIS**

Trump denies reports about adding his face to Mt. Rushmore

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 10

US President Donald Trump has denied reports that the White House had contacted South Dakota's Republican Governor Kristi Noem about adding his face to the iconic Mount Rushmore, it was reported.

Taking to Twitter on Sunday, Trump called the reports "fake news," though he added that it "sounds like a good idea to me", The Hill news website reported. The President was referring to



a report by The New York Times that said a White House aide had contacted Noem's office last year to ask about the process for adding new Presidents to Mount Rushmore. The report was

The New York Times that said a White House aide had contacted Noem's office last year to ask about the process for adding new Presidents to Mount Rushmore

carried by other news outlets, including CNN. In his tweet, Trump said: "This is Fake News by the failing @nytimes & bad ratings @

CNN. Never suggested it although, based on all of the many things accomplished during the first 3 1/2 years, perhaps more than any other Presidency, sounds like a good idea to me."

Mount Rushmore features the 60-feet high faces of four US Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The monument was carved into the granite rock face between 1927 and 1941. The land the memorial lies on, the Black Hills of South Dakota, was taken from the indigenous Lakota Sioux by the US government in 1800s. **IANIS**

lifeStyle



Deepika LOOKS BACK AT 'CHENNAI EXPRESS' MEMORIES

Actress Deepika Padukone said working with superstar Shah Rukh Khan and filmmaker Rohit Shetty on film, Chennai Express, was an unforgettable experience. Deepika took to Instagram to share some behind the scenes of "Chennai Express" as the movie clocked seven years. The movie was released on August 8, 2013.

"Unforgettable! #7yearsofchennaiaexpress #meenamma," she wrote while sharing many happy moments from the set. In two images, Deepika is seen having a light moment with Shah Rukh, in one she is seen with Rohit during a shoot. In another image, Deepika, Shah Rukh and Rohit are seen enjoying each other's company.

"Chennai Express" revolves around a north Indian guy Rahul, (Shah Rukh), whose life takes a 180 degree turn when he crosses paths with south Indian girl Meena Lochni, played by Deepika, in the train Chennai Express. On work front, Deepika is coming together with Prabhas for director Nag Ashwin's next, which will be a science-fiction film.

IAN S



Priyanka, Nick welcome new member to their family

Actress Priyanka Chopra and her singer husband Nick Jonas have adopted a new dog, and are already in love with him. The couple introduced

their new family member through Instagram. The 38-year-old actress and the musician, 27, both shared that they adopted a dog, who they have named Panda, reports people.com.

The "Quantico" star introduced the puppy by sharing a set of photographs of the couple with Panda. "Our new family

portrait! Welcome to the family, Panda," Priyanka captioned her post, adding, "We adopted this little rescue (soon he won't be so little) just a few weeks ago. We can't be sure but he seems to be a Husky Australian Shepard mix... and those eyes... and the ears!!!" Nick similarly shared the same set of

images and captioned his post, "Welcome to the family Panda! Panda is a Husky Australian Shepard mix rescue and we're already in love."

Panda, adopted from nonprofit dog rescue Hollywood Huskies, joins their pups Gino and Diana. Chopra revealed in the caption of her post that Diana wasn't around for the family's picture but they included her through photoshop, sharing: "BTW (Diana) wasn't around for our little photoshoot, but we couldn't leave our #1 girl out...so...we made it work!" Panda also has his very own official Instagram account. "Waiting for fam to introduce me to the world... until then I'll just lie here," one picture said.

IAN S

Bipasha Basu: Thrillers make for a perfect canvas for an actor

Actress Bipasha Basu loves to do thriller projects as they give her a chance to emote so much, ranging from drama, action, romance to fear. "Thrillers make for a perfect canvas for an actor - there's so much to emote, be it drama, action, romance, fear and that's what really pulls me towards this genre," Bipasha said.

"I also believe that this genre is enjoyed by audiences because it makes you feel like you're a part of the process, trying to solve the mystery in your head. While I enjoy other genres as well, thrillers have always been special for me and 'Dangerous' even more so - I love the fact that

I could act with Karan (husband Karan Singh Grover) again and collaborate with Vikram (Vikram Bhatt), Bhushan (Bhushan Patel) and Mika (Mika Singh) on this project," she added. Bipasha is reuniting with Karan Singh for thriller titled "Dangerous", co-starring Suyyash Rai, Natasha Suri, Sonali Raut, and Nitin Arora. The project is written by Vikram and directed by Bhushan.

It traces the journey of a young entrepreneur Aditya Dhranraj (played by Karan) whose life changes when his wife gets kidnapped and what happens when his ex-lover Neha (played by Bipasha) is sent on-ground to handle the case and find the kidnapper. It will be released on an OTT platform MX Player on August 14.

IAN S



Twinkle Khanna takes up thread therapy



Author-producer and former actress Twinkle Khanna feels that moving hands can still the mind. Twinkle took to Instagram to share her way of finding peace, and that is thread therapy. "Moving hands still the mind and my Mumbai 'Tai' livens up an old white shirt. #ThreadTherapy #HoopGirl," she shared while sharing her work of embroidery on a white shirt.

Earlier, on July 26, she shared a video of herself doing embroidery. She wrote: "While growing up in my Grandmother's house, we all learnt to paint, sew and knit. After twenty years I am trying my hand at embroidery again, struggling but trying. I can still hear my Nani's voice echoing in my head, 'Tina, don't do untidy work'." Meanwhile, Twinkle along with her actor husband Akshay Kumar and children are in the UK. Akshay will shoot for the first international schedule of the upcoming film "BellBottom" in Glasgow, Scotland, amid the coronavirus pandemic. Inspired by true events, the film is set in the 1980s, and the story is about one of India's forgotten heroes. Director Ranjit M. Tewari will helm the project.

IAN S

BILLIE PIPER finds social media 'terrifying'

British actress Billie Piper feels social media is terrifying. In an interview with The Sunday Times Culture magazine, Piper spoke about her fame and how she deals with social media, reports femalefirst.co.uk. "Let's put it this way, I wouldn't have wanted to be a famous pop star now. The social media element of it all is terrifying because it's continuous, it's in your bed, next to your bedside table every night. In my pop career here were moments that were horrible to experience as a teenager, but they came and went. But the thought of having that constantly on your person -- I wear my phone round my neck like some weird slave - and with one simple click you're able to see what millions of people think about you or other people, or just about anything. I would argue that it's got worse," she said.

Piper, who started career as a teenager, believes it is "slightly depressing" to see people living their lives so "publicly". "I don't know what that's like (having pictures stolen), but I certainly know what it means to live your life publicly.

IAN S



NEWSBRIEFS

Nokia 5310, now available across leading mobile retailers in India

CHANDIGARH: HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, today launched the Nokia 5310 across leading mobile retail stores of India. Reimagining the original Nokia 5310 Xpress Music, the Nokia 5310 brings with it an MP3 player[i] and FM radio (which can be played wired or wireless), combined with powerful, dual front-facing speakers letting you carry your favourite tunes with you on the go. The Nokia 5310 remixes classic design with a slick new feel and battery that's built to last, keeping you connected day after day. Sanmeet Singh, Vice President, HMD Global, said, "The Originals have always had a special place in our portfolio, as much as in our hearts and the hearts of our fans. **BPE**

Flipkart 'Leap' to nurture tech, consumer Internet startups

BENGALURU: E-commerce marketplace Flipkart on Monday launched its first startup accelerator programme to help new and upcoming companies in technology and consumer Internet space to grow, scale and navigate challenges. Called Flipkart Leap, the programme will identify business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) startups and help them scale through an intensive 16-week virtual programme, the company said in a statement. Throughout the programme, Flipkart's leadership from business, operations, product and technology will mentor the selected startups and share best practices, in addition to master class sessions hosted by industry experts. The 16-week programme, curated in partnership with global management and strategy consulting firm Zinnov, will open opportunities for startups to prepare their innovative solutions to be market-ready and allow them to win an equity-free grant of \$25,000 (around Rs 19 lakh). **IANs**

50 pc Indian workforce may be AI ready in next 6-10 years: Microsoft

NEW DELHI: The organisations that have deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) with skilling initiatives in India are generating most value from this new-age technology, and senior executives predict that half of all employees will be equipped with AI skills in the next 6-10 years, a new Microsoft survey said on Monday. In India, all AI-leading companies said they are actively building skills of their workers, or have plans to do so, while over 93 per cent of senior executives surveyed from these companies were sure their business was gaining value from AI. The research surveyed employees and leaders within large enterprises across industry verticals in India, and 19 other countries, to look at the skills needed to thrive as AI becomes increasingly adopted by businesses, as well as the key learning from early AI adopters. "AI is at the heart of digital transformation - which has accelerated at an extraordinary pace - and will continue to play a critical role in helping businesses be more agile, resilient and competitive during this time," said Dr Rohini Srivathsa, National Technology Officer, Microsoft India. **IANs**

AGR case: Can spectrum can be sold or transferred, SC asks

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

The Supreme Court on Monday, during the hearing on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) matter of telecom companies, questioned the Centre as to how is it possible to sell the spectrum and whether it is transferable. A bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), to come prepared on the next hearing, and explain how can spectrum be sold or whether is transferable.

The bench also asked Mehta to get the NCLT orders connected with the query, as it scheduled the next hearing on the matter on August 14. Mehta contended before the bench that the government has filed an appeal saying spectrum is a national property



and it should not be part of bankruptcy assets. At this, the bench questioned: "Why there was a delay in filing the appeal? What if the spectrum is sold in the meanwhile?" Mehta contended before the bench that the Centre has told the National Company Law Tribunal that spectrum is a

national property, cannot be an asset of the company, and it cannot be sold. The bench also questioned how Aircel's spectrum and license were sold and who gave the permission for it. Aircel's monitoring committee's lawyer contended before the bench that no dues to government are be

The bench also questioned how Aircel's spectrum and license were sold and who gave the permission for it.

paid under the bankruptcy resolution plan, and insisted that he will place the details in court.

The lawyer contended that the company paid the money to buy spectrum, and it is a transferable asset. The Centre, however, said Aircel's dues were Rs 12,000 crore.

As the bench questioned the DoT as to how it proposes to recover the AGR dues from a company which has gone into insolvency, Mehta replied that DoT's stand is that spectrum cannot be part of bankruptcy assets. **IANs**

After slow start, states lap up liquidity scheme for discoms



NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

After a slow start, the Centre's ambitious Rs 90,000-crore plan on Liquidity Injection for Electricity Distribution Companies has taken off now with close to 80 per cent of the amount already sanctioned to distressed firms in three to four states.

Sources in the Power Ministry said that discoms in Uttar Pradesh have taken sanction for funds totalling about Rs 20,000 crore available under the scheme, while southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka have got sanctions for about Rs 25,000 crore. Discoms in Maharashtra, J&K, Ra-

This is expected to kick off the payment cycle and keep the power sector functional amid the difficult Covid-19 pandemic period

jasthan, Punjab have got sanctioned another Rs 20,000 crore while Bihar and Tamil Nadu are yet to present their proposals for the loan.

Under the scheme, PFC and REC have been identified for liquidity injection into discoms through loans on easy terms, to enable them to clear dues to power generators. This is expected to kick off the payment cycle

and keep the power sector functional amid the difficult Covid-19 pandemic period. As per the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 13, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Rural were to infuse liquidity of Rs 90,000 crore into the discoms in two equal instalments.

The amount of soft loan a discom could get was dependent on the amount it owed power generation and transmission companies and its receivables from the state government. The scheme did not have a smooth start as states were earlier reluctant to extend guarantees on loans given to discoms due to their own precarious financial condition. Very few proposals had come from distribution companies to get loans against receivables (from state governments) for paying back dues of generators in the early days. Discoms dues towards genscos, which had risen to Rs 94,000 crore as of March-end, has crossed Rs 1.25 lakh crore mark as of June-end. The government is now looking to expand the scheme to cover liquidity for dues up to June. **IANs**

Oil prices rise as Iraq pledges to cut output

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Crude oil prices rose on Monday on supply concerns after Iraq said that it will further cut production. Last week, Iraq said it would cut its oil output by an additional 400,000 barrels per day in August and September to compensate for its overproduction in the past three months. The decision is likely to help the



country to comply with its share of cuts with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and their allies.

The October contract of Brent crude on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) is currently trad-

ing at \$44.87, higher by 1.06 per cent from its previous close. On the demand, hopes of a stimulus package for the US economy has also boosted the market sentiments. Hopes strengthened regarding the stalled talks between US Democrats and the White House on a new support package for cash-strapped states of the country, hit by the coronavirus pandemic. US House

Public procurement forms a very important part of government activity and reform in public procurement is one of the top priorities of the present government.

Accordingly, it has opened itself to suggestions to further expand the platform and its reach. **IANs**



Extension for 80C investments boosts NPS' Q1FY21 corporate subscriber base

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

Despite the Covid-induced economic turbulence, the Centre-backed National Pension System's corporate subscriber base has registered a substantial growth during Q1FY21.

In an interaction with IANS, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay cited the extension granted by the Centre for making investments till July 31 under 80C as the main reason for the rise. Traditionally, the deadline for making

such investments is till March 31 for the financial year ending on the same date, but this time the Centre extended this period till July 31 on account of the Covid-19 outbreak. As per IT Act's 80C, income tax payers can avail deduction of up to Rs 1.5 lakh by investing in stipulated instruments like NPS. The NPS was initially notified for Central government employees joining service on or after January 1, 2004 and subsequently adopted by almost all state governments for their employees. It was extended to all citizens of India on a

voluntary basis from May 2009 and to corporates in December 2011 and to Non-Resident Indians in October 2015. "Taxpayers, who missed the March 31 deadline, made use of this deadline extension," Bandyopadhyay told IANS. "Corporates believe that NPS provides better returns than other instruments and this coupled with the extension given to tax payers pushed private subscriptions." The data furnished by PFRDA showed an addition of 1.03 lakh individual subscribers from the private sector. Besides, 206

corporates were enrolled during Q1FY21, resulting in a total of 10.13 lakh corporate subscribers in the age group of 18 to 65 years.

Amongst the 102,975 subscribers registered, 43,000 have routed their subscription through their employer or corporate while the rest have voluntarily enrolled in the scheme. Furthermore, Bandyopadhyay said the onset of Covid-19, has led employers to adopt deeper measures to ensure adequate support to employees in terms of their financial well-being. **IANs**

Sensex rises for 3rd day, gains 142 pts; L&T spurts over 4 pc

MUMBAI, AUGUST 10

The BSE Sensex notched up gains for the third straight session on Monday, buoyed by engineering, finance and pharma stocks amid positive cues from global markets. After rallying 390.12 points during the day, the 30-share BSE benchmark pared some gains to end 141.51 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 38,182.08.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty climbed 56.10 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 11,270.15. L&T was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.81 per cent, followed by M&M, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, SBI, ICICI Bank and Titan. On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance were



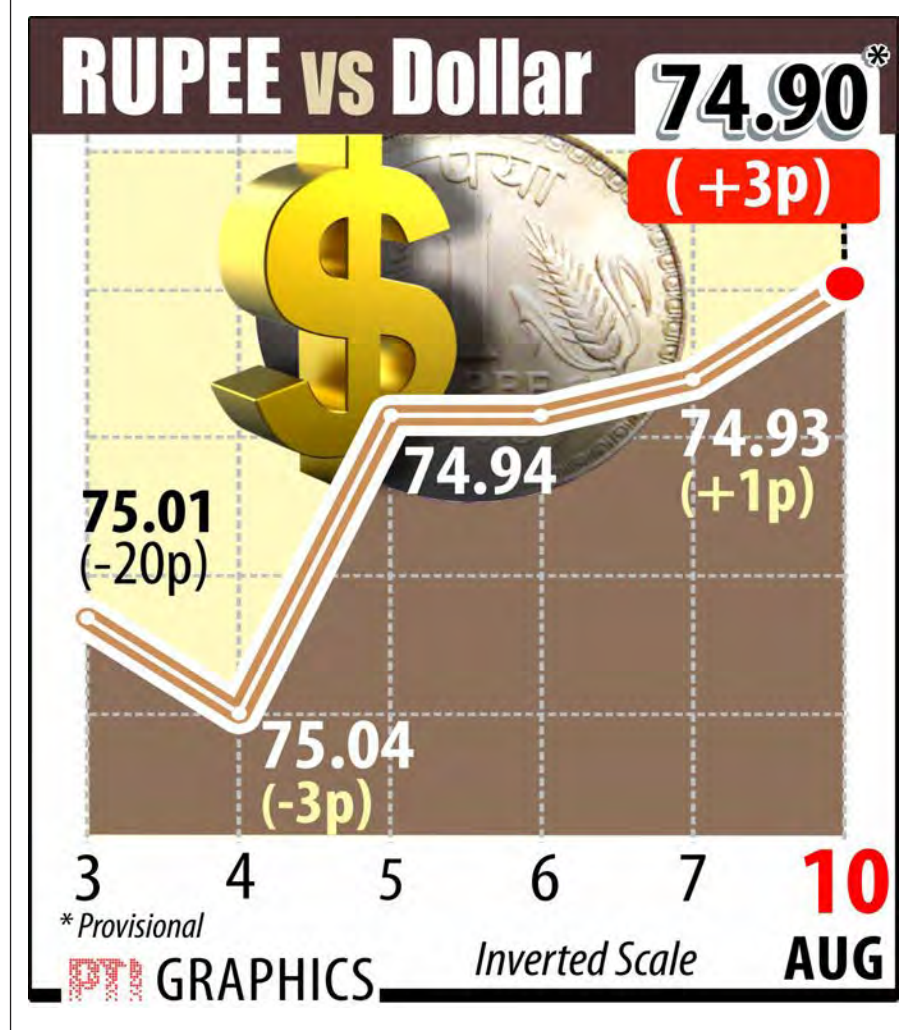
among the laggards, shedding up to 1.26 per cent. According to traders, market sentiment was positive amid firm cues from global indices and consistent foreign fund inflows. Global markets rose following positive factory output data from China, though escalating US-China tensions capped the gains. Bourses in Shanghai and Seoul ended

on a positive note, while Hong Kong settled in the red. Markets in Tokyo were closed for a holiday.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with gains in early deals. "Today's trade was characterised by heightened activity in defence and pharmaceutical stocks, the former due to the proposed changes being implemented favoring

domestic producers and the latter due to earnings..." On the broader market too, we witnessed investor interest across stocks in the sugar sector as large integrated sugar complexes have demonstrated success in their distillery operations," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

BSE healthcare, capital goods, realty, industrials, utilities and power indices rallied as much as 4.69 per cent, while energy and oil and gas closed with losses. In the broader markets, the BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices surged up to 1.47 per cent. Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.97 per cent higher at USD 44.83 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee settled with gains of 3 paise at 74.90 against the US dollar. **PTI**



WHAT REALLY IMPRESSED ME WITH BUTTLER WAS THE WAY HE WENT ABOUT IT, HE TRUSTED HIMSELF, SAID 'I'M THE MAN, I'M GOING TO GET THIS DONE

Patanjali considers bidding for IPL title sponsorship

MUMBAI, AUGUST 10

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved is considering bidding for the title sponsorship of the upcoming Indian Premier League, according to a company official.

The slot of the title sponsorship of IPL was vacated after BCCI confirmed last week that they have suspended the IPL title sponsorship deal with Chinese mobile giant VIVO.

The move would help the Haridwar-based firm access a global marketing platform, as Patanjali is focusing on exports for its Ayurveda-based FMCG products.

Confirming the development, Patanjali spokesperson S K Tijarawala told PTI: "We are considering this".

"This is for Vocal For Local and making one Indian brand as global, this is the right platform. We are



considering into that perspective," he said. However, Tijarawala also added that the company is yet to take a final call on the issue.

"We have to take a final decision, whether we would take it or not," Tijarawala added.

According to him, the Board of Control for Cricket

in India is coming with the expression of interest on Monday and it has to submit its proposal by August 14.

Last week, BCCI and VIVO decided to suspend their partnership for this year's IPL beginning on September 19 in the UAE, amid widespread anti-China sentiment in India.

The title sponsorship is a significant part of the IPL's commercial revenue, half of which is shared equally by the franchises.

VIVO won the IPL title sponsorship rights for five years from 2018 to 2022 for a reported sum of Rs 2,190 crore, approximately Rs 440 crore per annum.

The Haridwar-based Patanjali group has an estimated turnover of around Rs 10,500 crore. It had acquired debt-ridden Ruchi Soya in a corporate insolvency resolution process for around Rs 4,350 crore after competing with Adani Group.

Patanjali Ayurved had reported a revenue of Rs 8,329 crore in FY 2018-19. However, overall the group's turnover was much higher as Patanjali Ayurved consists of mainly its FMCG business and its Ayurvedic medicines. PTI

England's Buttler is the whole package, says Shane Warne

MELBOURNE, AUGUST 10

Jos Buttler is the 'whole package' and that is why the wicketkeeper-batsman should be a regular in England's Test side, feels Australian spin great Shane Warne.

Buttler was under immense scrutiny due to lapses behind the stumps during the first Test against Pakistan last week. He missed two chances against opener Shan Masood on 45, who went on to score 156, helping Pakistan put up 326 on the board in their first innings.

However, the 29 year-old, who had also been struggling with the bat for some time, played a crucial 75-run knock in the second innings and shared a century stand with Chris Woakes to help England win the first Test by three wickets. "He should always be in the side. Jos



is a very good and reliable keeper but, occasionally, you're going to have a few bad days - it wasn't easy out there, either," Warne told 'Sky Sports'.

"But Jos should always be in your side because of what he's capable of, with the bat especially. And then

his keeping, he's a good leader among the team as well - there's a calmness about him - he's the whole package.

"He's always one of the first pencilled in for me," Warne added.

Buttler changed the complexion of the game with his

aggressive batting. He struck seven boundaries and a six in his 101 ball-75, helping England, who were reeling at 117 for five, chase down the 277 run target. "What really impressed me with Buttler was the way he went about it, he trusted himself, said 'I'm the man, I'm going to get this done.'"

Warne added that Buttler's positive approach helped his non-striker Woakes, who struck a match-winning unbeaten 84 after having averaged only 5.22 in his last six Tests.

"He just played beautifully; and that helped Woakes at the other end, who had been struggling for form, but came in and played extremely well. I'm very happy for Woakes and, in particular, Buttler. It was a fantastic chase, against a quality attack, on a good pitch," he said. AGENCIES

Frenchwoman Ferro is first WTA champ amid COVID-19



PARIS, AUGUST 10

France's Fiona Ferro became the first WTA champion in five months on Sunday as she overpowered Anett Kontaveit 6-2, 7-5 to win the Palermo Ladies Open, the first Tour event to be staged since the COVID-19 epidemic shut down the sport.

Ferro went 10 matches unbeaten in regional exhibition events after the Tour was suspended in March, and continued to gather further momentum with five more wins in Palermo this week as major tennis returned in the Sicilian capital.

"I think it was my best match of the week," the

23-year-old Ferro said after landing the second title of her career with a dominant display.

"I was feeling relaxed... I don't know why because it was a final! I wasn't really feeling pressure."

Several exhibition events have taken place globally since the sport was halted in early March due to the pandemic but the women's claycourt tournament in Palermo was the first across both the elite WTA and ATP tours in five months.

There were strict health protocols, including limited number of fans and no handshakes between players after the match. AGENCIES

Inter Milan will have to give everything, says Conte ahead of Europa League quarter-final

MILAN, AUGUST 10

Inter Milan manager Antonio Conte wants his players to 'give everything' as the club gears up for the Europa League quarter-final.

"We must be positive. We work hard to achieve the goal, which must be the maximum possible. To get from here to the end, we will have to prove it on the pitch.

We cannot have complaints. We will have to give everything," Conte said.

"If it is enough to get to the semi-finals, or the final, or to raise the cup, we will all be happy - or we will go out where it is right to go out but without having complaints," he added. Inter Milan secured a 2-0 win over Getafe on August 6 to book their spot in the



quarterfinals of the tournament. The club finished the 2019-2020 Serie A season on the second spot. Conte said despite witnessing difficult situations, they have the enthusiasm and desire to face the upcoming challenge and advance to the semi-finals of the Europa League. "We come from playing many games in a row in harsh weather conditions.

But there is enthusiasm and desire to face this challenge and go to the semi-finals," he said.

"I think we are all trying to work to bring Inter back to where they belong, to be a team who are capable of winning trophies," Conte added. Inter Milan will take on Bayer Leverkusen in the quarter-final on Tuesday. AGENCIES

Off colour Anderson swats aside retirement whispers

LONDON, AUGUST 10

England pacer James Anderson on Monday dismissed his retirement rumours, saying he is still hungry to play more Test cricket.

The bowler also said that he still wants to play the 2021-22 Ashes in Australia. The 38-year-old is the highest wicket-taker for any pacer in Test cricket.

Ever since the resumption of cricket, Anderson has looked out off colour, and has taken just six wickets from three Tests (two against Windies and one against Pakistan).

"It's been a frustrating



week for me personally. I've not bowled very well and felt out of rhythm. For the first time in probably 10 years, I got a little bit emotional on the field. I got a bit frustrated and let it get to me a little bit. It reminded me of when I

first started playing, when you get frustrated and a little bit angry, you try and bowl quicker and quicker and it doesn't help," ESPNcricinfo quoted Anderson as saying.

"Yes, I absolutely want to play in the Ashes. But

it's not like that's a focus of mine. I want to play as long as I possibly can. I'm still hungry to play the game. If I keep bowling the way I did this week, the opportunity to retire will be taken out of my hands. It will be a selection issue. I think the frustration for me this week was the sort of whispers that go around after one bad game. I don't think that's really fair," he added.

Anderson also admitted that he was not himself in the recently concluded first Test against Pakistan, and said that if he keeps on bowling this way, then his retirement call might

just be taken out of his hand.

"Everyone has a bad game every now and then. That's how I look at it. I'll work hard to try and put things right if I get a chance next week if I get the chance. I didn't bowl that badly. But I feel like, in the second innings, in particular, a chance when down and I let it get to me. I'm normally pretty good at thinking if you've created a chance then that's a positive thing. It's obviously frustrating when a catch goes down but if you're creating chances, you must be doing something right," Anderson said. AGENCIES

Solskjaer buoyed by Martial progress

MANCHESTER, AUGUST 10



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has praised Anthony Martial's progress.

Martial scored his 23rd goal for United in all competitions this season against LASK Linz

in Wednesday's Europa League last-16 victory.

"Anthony has made huge strides this season in many aspects of his game," Solskjaer told on eve-of-match news conference ahead of Monday's Europa League quarter-final clash with Copenhagen in Cologne.

"Physically, he is at the best level of his career. We know he can do worldies but I like him scoring the simple goals, when he is in between the posts. He's done that a few times.

"He's in the gym a lot working on his fitness and strength. I'm just looking forward to seeing him improve. There's more to come from him."

United arrived earlier on Sunday for the remainder of the Europa League tournament, which will feature one-match knockout ties at different Ger-

man venues, culminating in the final, also in Cologne, on August 21.

Solskjaer, who has already guided United to Champions League qualification with a third-placed finish in the Premier League, said the end-of-season event will aid his side's development.

"We went into this season knowing that Europa League is a great chance for us to get a trophy, to get far in a tournament," he added.

"But also to groom a few of the youngsters and it was perfect for us. "I think if we'd been in the Champions League, I maybe wouldn't have had the chance to play the likes of Brandon (Williams), Mason (Greenwood), so many of the young kids who have now started what's going to be fantastic careers."

AGENCIES

Willian confirms Chelsea exit after seven years

LONDON, AUGUST 10

Brazilian midfielder Willian has confirmed he will leave Chelsea after seven 'wonderful' years at Stamford Bridge.

The 32-year-old, linked with a move across town to Arsenal, posted a farewell letter to the club's fans on Twitter. "The time has now come to move on. I am certainly going to miss my team mates," he said.

"I leave with my head held high, safe in the knowledge that I won things here and always did my best in a Chelsea shirt!" Willian, who began his career with Corinthians in Sao Paulo, joined Chelsea from Anzhi Makhachkala in 2013 and made over 300 appearances for the



club, winning two Premier League titles. He was out of contract this summer and had failed to agree a new long-term deal with the club.

"In August 2013 when I received the offer from Chelsea, I was convinced that this was where I had to play," he said.

"Today I am certain that it was the best of decisions. There were so many happy times, some sad, there were trophies and it was always very intense." Spanish midfielder Pedro also announced he was leaving the club on Sunday after five years. AGENCIES

Julia Simic joins AC Milan from West Ham United



LONDON, AUGUST 10

West Ham United on Sunday announced that Julia Simic has made a move to Italian club AC Milan.

"West Ham United can confirm that Julia Simic has joined Italian club AC Milan," the club said in a statement.

The German midfielder makes the switch to the Serie A side after two seasons in the FA Women's Super League with the Hammers.

Simic, who joined West Ham in July 2018 from SC Freiburg, made 22 appearances in all competitions, scoring three goals. "Everyone at West Ham United would like to thank Julia for all of her efforts during her time with the Club and wish her every success in her future career," the statement read. AGENCIES