



IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 12

'RAPID GROWTH SEES EXCESS BANK LOANS... AS BOOM ENDS, THERE IS STRESS... BUT MUST IT LAST 6 YRS?'

MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 13

Aiman a.k.a Aman

As a govt hospital starts an OPD for sex reassignment surgery in Mumbai, many born with gender dystrophy finally have an option



HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY

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THE ROAD TO WELLBEING

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WINTER GAMES

The first Khelo India Winter Games was inaugurated in Gulmarg, in Jammu & Kashmir, on Saturday. The event ends on March 11. *Shuaib Masoodi* REPORT, PAGE 26

'MONEY OF DEPOSITORS NOT AT RISK'

Yes Bank plan: SBI chief rules out merger, says investors interested

SBI initial investment Rs 2,450 cr, 49% stake, can increase to Rs 10,000 cr



Outside a Yes Bank branch in Mumbai, Saturday. *Nirmal Harindran*

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 7

THE STATE Bank of India (SBI), which is set to buy up to 49% equity stake in troubled Yes Bank, as proposed in the Reserve Bank of India's reconstruction plan, said on Saturday that several potential investors have approached it to form a consortium to pick up stake in the private sector lender.

While SBI will initially invest Rs 2,450 crore, the investment can later increase to over Rs 10,000 crore depending on the due diligence, final valuation, investor interest and the capital requirement, SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said. SBI has time till Monday to respond to the RBI



SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar. *Prashant Nadkar*

on its Yes Bank draft scheme. Declining to name other investors who have showed interest, Kumar said Yes Bank needs a credible investor like SBI. He, however, ruled out a merger of

CONG SAYS REVIVAL PLAN BIZARRE PAGE 8

Rana Kapoor questioned on DHFL firm's loan to family company

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

A DAY after conducting searches at premises associated with Rana Kapoor, including his residence, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday questioned the Yes Bank promoter the whole day.

Kapoor is being questioned over a Rs 600-crore loan from a non-banking financial company (NBFC), which is an associate company of Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL), to DoIT Urban Ventures (India) Private Ltd, a company owned by Kapoor's family, at a time when Yes Bank had loan exposure of over Rs 3,000 crore to DHFL. Rana Kapoor was the MD and CEO of Yes Bank till January 2019.

Documents available with the Registrar of Companies under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs show that DoIT was incorporated in 2012 with Rana Kapoor's wife Bindu as its director. It currently has his daughters Roshini Kapoor and Radha Kapoor Khanna as its

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Govt revokes ban on two news channels: 'Value press freedom'

I&B Minister Javadekar says PM expressed concern over ban order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, NEW DELHI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 7

REVOKING THE 48-hour ban imposed on Friday evening on two Malayalam news channels — Asianet News and Media One News — for their coverage of the Delhi riots, the government said on Saturday that it "values press freedom" and indicated that its officials may have erred in drafting the notices.

While Asianet News was back on air at 1 am Saturday, Media One News resumed telecast at 9.30 am.

Speaking to *The Sunday Express* in Pune, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the two television channels had violated the broadcasting code of conduct, but the notices issued to them were not properly worded.

The two separate orders, citing alleged violations of the



'Order should have only mentioned code of conduct'

Cable TV Network (Regulations) Act, 1995, had listed "siding towards a particular community" and being "critical towards Delhi Police and RSS" among the reasons.

"We have now asked the officers concerned how this happened. The notice sent to the two media channels should have restricted itself to only mentioning that the code of conduct was not followed. There is a code of conduct for news channels which expects them not to disclose names of places of worship (during riots)," Javadekar said.

"We immediately found out what actually happened, and therefore, we restored the channels. Our basic thought process

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KUWAIT SUSPENDS INDIA FLIGHTS

Coronavirus count 34: Two cases in Ladakh, one in TN

J&K orders closure of primary classes in some dists; PM holds review meet

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THREE MORE people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), taking the count of those infected in the country so far to 34. Of the new cases, two are from Ladakh, with a travel history to Iran, and one person is from Tamil Nadu who had travelled to Oman. The Ministry of Health said all patients in India are stable and efforts are on to trace all the people they came in contact with.

Over 150 contacts have been traced of the two US nationals who tested positive for the virus in Bhutan, and placed under community surveillance, sources in the health ministry said. On Friday, Bhutan announced that the two Americans had travelled to various places in India before



Passengers of a river cruise being screened in Jorhat, Assam, on Saturday. *P.T.I* **MORE REPORTS, PAGES 19, 21**

BIG PICTURE
PAGES 14-15
FIGHTING THE VIRUS
The many hours and many hands behind India's battle against coronavirus

entering that country. A flight from Iran has landed in India with the nasal and throat swabs of Indians stranded there. The 108 samples received from Iran on Saturday morning are being tested at AIIMS — only those who test negative can fly to India. Six scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have been stationed in Iran, and equipment and reagents, worth approximately Rs 10 crore, have been dispatched to enable them to setup a lab there.

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WORLD



3 SAUDI PRINCES DETAINED FOR 'COUP PLOT' PAGE 19

Centre moves on privatisation of BPCL, invites bids

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE GOVERNMENT has invited Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from interested parties with a net worth of at least \$10 billion for the strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) — one of the largest oil marketing and oil refining companies in India with a refining capacity of 38.3 million metric tonnes per annum or about 15% of the total refining capacity in the country.

Divestment of the government's 52.98% equity stake in BPCL will form a key part of its Rs 2.1 lakh crore disinvestment target for the next fiscal. The government has, however, excluded BPCL's stake in the Numaligarh refinery, which has a refining capacity of 3 million metric tonnes per annum, from the divestment process as it intends

EXPLAINED **1st step to target of 2.1 lakh cr**

BPCL WILL give potential buyers ready access to 15% of India's oil refining capacity and about one-fourth of the retail market share in one of the world's fastest-growing fuel markets. This would mark the first big-ticket disinvestment for this government, effectively setting the stage for its ambitious divestment target of Rs 2.1 lakh crore.

to sell it to another PSU. The Union Cabinet had approved the strategic sale of BPCL, stake sales in Container Corporation of India and Shipping

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35 yrs after Delhi blasts, 30 acquitted: Court says probe defective, lopsided

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

A DELHI court has acquitted 30 of the 59 accused in the transistor bomb blasts of 1985, saying the "investigation conducted in these cases was defective, lopsided, unfair and suffered from various lacunae".

On the evening of May 10, 1985, bombs fitted in transistors went off in buses and other places in Delhi and adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh and



49 people were killed in Delhi. *Express archive*

Haryana, killing 49 people and injuring 127 in Delhi alone. A Special Investigation Team, un-

der the supervision of then DCP (Central) of Delhi Police, had chargesheeted 59 accused. While five of the 59 are proclaimed offenders and never appeared for trial, the trial court in July 2006 discharged five due to "insufficient evidence". Of the remaining 49 accused, 19 died during pendency of the trial, leaving the 30 accused who have been on bail since 1986.

In his order on March 5, Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Yadav said, "It is

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Global criticism: Getting to know who our friends are, says Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday that India is getting to know who its friends really are, as he responded to questions on the criticism from the UN Human Rights chief and Iran over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the recent communal violence in Delhi.

Asked if India was losing its



Criticised UN body on J&K

friends, Jaishankar said, "Maybe we are getting to know who our friends really are."

Speaking at the ET Global Business Summit, he said: "We have tried to reduce the number of stateless people through this legislation. That should be

appreciated... We have done it in a way that we do not create a bigger problem for ourselves."

"Everybody, when they look at citizenship, has a context and has a criterion. Show me a country in the world which says everybody in the world is welcome. Nobody does that. Look at America. Look at the Europeans. I can give you (the) example of every European country. There is some social criterion," he said.

Asked about the UNHRC chief not agreeing with India on

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How a Punjab village hit the ball out of the park with a stadium

RAAKHI JAGGA
DULLEY (LUDHIANA), MARCH 7

"UNTIL 2003, this was the village *shamlaat* (common land) where we grew a few things, usually grapefruit. But nothing much. Look at how it has transformed," says Darshan Singh, the village postman in his mid-50s, facing the ground where an U-14 cricket match is on.

The stadium, spread across 8 acres in Dulley village in Ludhiana district, boasts of three cricket

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pitches. Set up entirely from funds raised by villagers, the stadium was built in 2005 as a memorial for Jathedar Santokh Singh, the chief sewadar of the Gurdwara Falahi Sahib, which

draws pilgrims from across the state to the village.

"The jathedar had a great role in spreading the knowledge of *gurbani* and *kirtan* among several villages around ours. He had even sponsored the education of several underprivileged children. So when he died in 2005, we thought we must build a memorial. And we thought what can be a better memorial than something that inspires the youth and keeps them on the right track," says Teja Singh Dhaliwal, a village resident and



Sarpanch Jasbir Singh (right) with coach Harbhajan Singh at the Falahi Sahib cricket stadium in Ludhiana. *Gurmeet Singh*

president of the Punjab Basketball Association.

Today, the stadium, which draws youngsters from 10 surrounding villages, besides some from Ludhiana, 18 km away, hosts inter-district cricket matches organised by the Ludhiana District Cricket Association (LDCA). Among those who have played here is Baltej Singh, a medium pacer who represented Punjab in the ongoing Ranji Trophy and who is a resident of Kaddo, a village near Dulley.

Other Ludhiana players — including Dipin Chitkara, now a member of Punjab's U-23 cricket team, and Jayesh Jain, who has played over 35 first-class cricket matches, besides a number of U-19 and seniors players of Punjab — have played several inter-district matches at this cricket ground.

Aishmine Kaur, 15, who is representing Punjab in an U-19 women's cricket tournament in Guwahati and was adjudged player of the match in the team's first match against Himachal

Pradesh, says that for two years, she would travel from Ludhiana every weekend to practise at the Dulley cricket ground. "I played with the boys every weekend. The Falahi Sahib cricket ground shaped me as a player," she says on the phone.

Jasbir Singh Dehlon, father of off-spinner Manjot Singh Dehlon, who was part of the Punjab U-19 cricket team last year, says, "Our village is close to Dulley. This ground was a boon to Manjot since there was no

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