



# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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STEP UP TRAINING, XI TELLS MILITARY WORLD

EXIM BANK RAISES \$1 BILLION VIA 10-YEAR BOND ISSUE BUSINESS

ON JOB TO DOUBLE NATURAL GAS SHARE: PM BACK PAGE



WEDNESDAY | 6 JANUARY 2021

## Vaccine rollout by Jan 13

30 cr to get shots on priority | Open to export of Covishield, Covaxin: Govt

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

India's Covid-19 vaccine delivery plan gathered pace on Tuesday with the Centre saying it was ready for a rollout by January 13.

In first indications of Covid jabs being days away, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "We are ready to roll out Covid vaccines within 10 days of the grant of emergency use authorisation (EUA). The Drug Controller gave the EUA to the vaccines on January 3. The final call on the date of the rollout will be taken by the government."

The 10-day period ends on January 13 with clear indications that the Health Ministry was geared to administer shots to 30 crore in priority groups, including one crore health workers, two crore frontline workers and 27 crore people aged 50 and above and those below 50 with comorbid conditions.

The logistics are in place, the government said, citing four national-level vaccine cold storage depots at Karnal, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and 37 state-level storage sites. The national depots will store the vaccines for further distribution to state depots and later cover



A health worker takes part in a dry run in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. PTI

### LOGISTICS IN PLACE

■ Four national-level vaccine cold storage depots at Karnal, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and 37 state-level storage sites in place

■ 29,000 cold storage sites to distribute vaccines to primary health centres and other sites where shots will be given

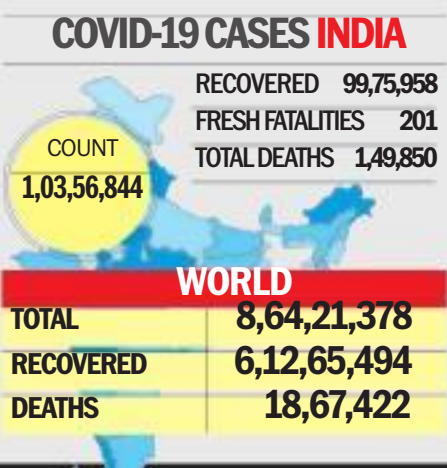
### SII, BHARAT BIOTECH PLEDGE SMOOTH RUN

In a show of solidarity, Adar Poonawalla and Krishna Ella, jointly on behalf of Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech, on Tuesday communicated their intent to develop and supply the vaccines for India and the world. "Both our companies consider it our duty to the nation and world at large to ensure a smooth rollout," they said.



### CRISIS AT HOME, UK PM CANCELS VISIT

**New Delhi:** UK PM Boris Johnson has cancelled his visit to India for Republic Day in order to oversee the pandemic response at home, an announcement from Downing Street said. Johnson also called up PM Narendra Modi to regret inability to attend the event in view of lockdown in his country. **BACK PAGE**



all 29,000 cold storage sites from where the vaccines will be transported in temperature-monitored equipment to primary health centres and the other sites where the

shots will be administered. Health and frontline workers would not have to self-register on Co-WIN, the digital vaccine delivery platform, Bhushan said,

adding that the vaccine dry runs were successful and vaccinators trained in handling adverse events following immunisation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## 'No infirmities in approvals': SC go-ahead to Central Vista

Justice Sanjiv Khanna delivers dissenting verdict

SATYA PRAKASH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The Supreme Court on Tuesday cleared the Central Vista redevelopment project that included construction of a new Parliament building and a common Central Secretariat, with certain conditions.

By a 2:1 majority, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar held that there were no infirmities in the clearances given for the project, including those with regard to change in the land use, environmental clearances and selection of consultant.

"We cannot be called upon to govern. For, we have no wherewithal or prowess and expertise in that regard," the majority verdict by Justice Khanwilkar and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari said.

However, it asked the Centre to get necessary prior permission of the heritage conservation committee "before actually starting any development/redevelopment work on the stated plots/structures/precincts governed by the heritage laws, including on plot number 118, if already not obtained".

The top court directed the project proponent to set up

### 2:1 JUDGMENT

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, by 2:1 majority, held that the grant of environmental clearance and the notification for change in land use for construction of new Parliament building under the Central Vista project was valid.

### IT'S A WASTE: CONG

While Congress termed the project a "misplaced priority", Union Minister Hardeep Puri accused it of "selective amnesia". He tweeted a 2012 letter by LS Speaker's office to the Urban Development Ministry flagging the need for a new Parliament building. **BACK PAGE**



A MODEL OF THE PROPOSED PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

smog towers of adequate capacity as an integral part of the new Parliament building project and use smog guns at the construction site throughout the construction phase. It also asked the Ministry of Environment and Forests to instal smog towers in future projects.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who delivered a dissenting verdict, held the change in land use and green clearances given to the project were bad in law, even as he said, "Our interference does not reflect on merits

of the stands, but is on account of procedural illegalities and failure to abide the statutory provisions and mandate."

Last month, the Bench had expressed displeasure over the Centre going ahead with the project without waiting for its verdict. However, it had allowed the stone-laying on December 10. The SC noted, "The petitioners have not pointed out a single document which formed a part of the process and was not placed in public domain."

**EDIT: CLEARANCE FOR CENTRAL VISTA**

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## Parl session from Jan 29, Budget on February 1

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA) on Tuesday recommended that the Budget Session of Parliament be held from January 29 until April 8 with a recess in between.

The recommendation is to hold the first part of the session from January 29 to February 15 and the post-recess part from March 8 to April 8. The Union Budget is to be presented on February 1.

The CCPA met today under Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. With the recommendations, the stage is set for the sharpening of the Opposition's offensive against the government on the farmers' agitation and the delivery of Covid vaccines. There was no winter session in 2020 with the Congress saying it was unprecedented to disperse with the session. — TNS

## MiG-21 crashes in R'sthan, pilot safe

**CHANDIGARH:** An Indian Air Force MiG-21 Bison fighter aircraft crashed near Suratgarh in Rajasthan late on Tuesday while on a routine training mission. The pilot managed to bail out safely.

"During a training sortie in the western sector, a MiG-21 Bison aircraft experienced a major technical fault. The pilot ejected safely. There is no loss of life. A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," a tweet by the IAF said. — TNS

### IN BRIEF

## Alex appointed UK High Commissioner

**LONDON:** Alex Ellis, a strategic expert, will take charge as the new UK High Commissioner to India later this month. The 53-year-old civil servant has been serving as Deputy NSA in the UK Cabinet Office. He will succeed Sir Philip Barton, who moved back to the UK last year. — PTI

## Reconstruct temple, orders Pakistan SC

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Evacuee Trust Board to start reconstruction of a century-old Hindu temple that was vandalised and set on fire by a mob in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province last week. It said the attack had caused "international embarrassment" to the nation. — PTI

## Chargesheet filed in gold smuggling case

**NEW DELHI:** The NIA on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against 20 accused in the most talked-about case of gold smuggling through diplomatic channels at the Thiruvananthapuram airport. Submitted in 180 days of first arrest, the chargesheet is valid under UAPA. **BACK PAGE**

## Unions defer tractor march by a day

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, JANUARY 5

The farmers' unions today deferred their tractor march from January 6 to January 7 due to a bad weather forecast even as they asserted they would intensify their stir in the coming days.

Thousands of farmers will take out the march from all protest sites — Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur and Shahjahanpur (Haryana-Rajasthan border) — and the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway.

Addressing a press conference at Kundli, Yogendra Yadav, convener, Swaraj India, said the tractor march would be a "trailer for what lies ahead on January 26".

"We have decided to intensify and broaden our movement. The march will begin from the expressway on all four sides of Delhi at 11 am on Thursday," he said.

The farmers will start the march from Kundli and Tikri towards Shahjahanpur and from Ghazipur and Rewasan towards Palwal.

As part of its plan to intensify agitation against the three farm laws, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha has already announced to hold a "tractor



Farmers take cover from rain during their ongoing protest at Ghazipur border. MANAS RANJAN BHUI

### BJP LEADERS FROM PUNJAB MEET PM

**New Delhi:** BJP leaders from Punjab on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. Surjit Kumar Jyani, who is also a former Punjab minister, and Harjit Singh Grewal met the PM at his residence. Later, Grewal said their meeting was about Punjab-related issues.

### SHOWERS FAIL TO DETER FARMERS

**Karnal:** Bone-chilling weather coupled with rain has failed to dampen the spirits of farmers, who have been protesting at Bastara toll plaza on NH-44 and Peont toll plaza on Karnal-Jind NH-709A since December 25. They said they won't relent till their demands were met.

### ACTION TAKEN TO PROTECT RELIANCE ASSETS, PUNJAB TELLS HC INSIDE

parade" in New Delhi after the official parade on the Republic Day.

Darshan Pal, president, Krantikari Kisan Union, said

their agitation plan included boycott of Adani and Ambani products, burning copies of the laws on Lohri, observing Mahila Kisan

Diwas on January 18 and Azad Hind Kisan Diwas on January 23 on the occasion of birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

## HP lifts curfew in 4 dists, allows coaching classes

SHIMLA, JANUARY 5

With Covid cases showing a decline in the state, the Himachal Pradesh Government today decided to lift night curfew in Shimla, Mandi, Kullu and Kangra districts from tomorrow.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. The Cabinet also allowed coaching centres to operate at 50 per cent capacity. The Health Department will issue standard operating

### Restores six-day week schedule in govt offices

procedures for the centres. It also decided to restore the usual six-day week schedule in government offices.

On the State Election Commission's request, the Cabinet relaxed the condition of allowing not more than 50 persons at indoor meetings so that the commission could conduct poll training. — TNS

## Pb singer 'targets' cops in video, lands behind bars

### Shree Brar to be grilled in a murder case, say police CASE FOR PROMOTING GUN CULTURE



song, "Jaan" by Barbie Mann, featuring Brar, was released in November last year. In its video, Brar is reportedly seen

■ Shree Brar featured in a recent song, "Jaan" by Barbie Mann. In its video, he is reportedly seen threatening cops after being named in a murder case

■ He is seen barging into a police station and rescuing an accused by pointing gun at the duty officer

### MOOSEWALA FAILS TO APPEAR IN COURT

■ Failing to respond to summons twice, a Sangrur court has passed ex parte order on a plea against singer Sidhu Moosewala

■ Plea seeks ₹50L over derogatory words against lawyers in his song 'Sanju'

threatening a murder accused by pointing a weapon at the duty officer. The police said the singer, a

resident of Sector 91, SAS Nagar, talked about his name being dragged in a recent murder case, but "owing to his links" he was "untouchable" by law. "Such glorification of guns and hatred will not be tolerated. The FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint. Raids are on to nab other artists who were part of the song," the SSP said.

DSP (Investigation) Krishan Kumar Panth said the singer admitted to his involvement in the murder in the song. "We will interrogate him to ascertain if he had any role in the case," he said. — TNS



# Action taken to protect Reliance assets, HC told

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

The Punjab Government today claimed action had been taken to protect assets of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, adding that the task of the state agencies would become easier if the petitioner-company was to share information on the alleged “vested interest” involved in sabotaging and damaging its network infrastructure. The submission came as the Punjab and Haryana High Court issued a notice of motion to the state of Punjab.

Taking up the company’s petition for action against efforts by “vested interest and miscreants” to completely sabotage and damage its network infrastructure, Justice Sudhir Mittal also issued a notice to the Union of India, the Department of Telecommunication and the state Director-General of Police. Justice Mittal fixed the case for February 8 after the counsel for the respondents sought time.

## Court issues notice to state, others on company’s plea



A damaged mobile tower in Jalandhar. FILE PHOTO

The notice to Punjab and the DGP was accepted by state counsel Diya Sodhi. For remaining respondents, it was accepted by Additional Solicitor-General of India Satya Pal Jain, Saigeeta Srivastava and Gurmeet Kaur Gill.

Responding to the contentions raised in the petition, Punjab Advocate-General Atul Nanda submitted the petitioner-company was itself admit-

ting action for protection of its assets. Accompanied by Additional AG Rameeza Hakeem, Nanda added the state has deployed 1,019 patrolling parties in 27 districts and appointed 22 nodal officers to prevent further damage. The state was carrying out the duty enjoined upon it by the statutes. The impact of the farm laws’ agitation by the farmers on 1,300 affected towers had been removed and these were now functioning, Nanda submitted.

Appearing for the petitioner-company, senior counsel Ashok Aggarwal submitted the Punjab Prevention of Damage to Public and Private Property Act, 2014, was enacted to prevent damage to public and private property. But preventive mechanism was not provided. As such, damage to petitioner’s properties could not be prevented despite the enactment. “The state needs to evolve a mechanism for fulfilling the purpose behind the Act,” he added.

# 15 trains cancelled, short-terminated

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, JANUARY 5

The Railways has cancelled, short-terminated and diverted at least 15 trains in Punjab due to the ongoing farmers’ agitation.

According to information, the 05211 Darbhanga-Amritsar Express Special Train will remain cancelled on Wednesday. Consequently, the 05612 Amritsar-Darbhanga Express Special Train will not run on January 8, officials said.

The 08237 Korba-Amritsar Express Train will remain cancelled on January 6 and January 8 while the 08238 Amritsar-Korba Express Train will also remain cancelled on January 8 and January 10.

The 02715 Nanded-Amritsar Express Train will be short-terminated in New Delhi on January 6. The 02716 Amritsar-Nanded Express Train will short-originate from New Delhi on January 8 and remain partially cancelled on the New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi route.



The 02407 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar Express Train will be short-terminated in Ambala on January 6. Consequently, the 02408 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri Express will start from Ambala on January 8 and remain partially cancelled between Ambala and Amritsar.

The 04654 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri Express Special Train will short-originate from Saharanpur on January 6, officials said.

The 02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Express Special Train will be diverted via the Beas-Tarn Taran-Amritsar route on January 5. The 02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Express Special Train will be diverted via the Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Beas route on January 6.



Farmers raise slogans during their protest against the agricultural laws near Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

# State BJP leaders meet PM, ask farmers to drop repeal demand

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

Leaders of the BJP’s Punjab unit today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi even as agitating farmers claimed to intensify their protest against three agricultural laws.

Talking to reporters, Punjab leaders Surjit Kumar Jyani and Harjit Singh Grewal said their meeting with the PM was about state-related issues, including the farmers’ agitation.

## EXPRESSED CONCERN

“The PM knows a lot about Punjab. During our discussion, he expressed his concern on the farmers’ issue.”

Surjit Kumar Jyani, BJP LEADER

Jyani said, “The PM knows a lot about Punjab. During our discussion, he expressed his concern on the farmers’ issue.”

Jyani appealed to the

farmers to drop their demand for repeal of the laws. He said the PM was giving priority to farmers.

Grewal, however, alleged that Maoist elements had entered the agitation and were not allowing resolution of the issue.

Though party leaders claimed that Punjab leaders had sought time from the PMO for the meeting, sources said they were summoned as Modi wanted a firsthand report on the issue.



Navjot Singh Sidhu with residents in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# At ‘chai pe charcha’, Sidhu targets Centre

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JANUARY 5

Amritsar’s famous Giani Tea Stall on Cooper Road here had an unexpected guest when senior Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu visited it and held ‘chai pe charcha’ with people.

Sidhu spoke to passersby, especially the morning walkers, who stopped for an interaction with the cricketer-turned-politician. Sidhu also got selfies clicked with them.

The former minister enquired about their well-being and patiently listened to their grievances before taking on the Union Government for allegedly favouring the big corporates and “looting” the common man.

“Today, the farmers are fighting not only for their own cause but for the rights of every Indian. The farmers are the flag-bearers of our fight for rights. We must support them. How can they trust the government which

## Says Union Govt favouring big corporates

could not fulfil its constitutional commitment under the GST to pay Punjab an increment of 14 per cent every year?” he said.

Citing statistics, Sidhu claimed that the total debt on the Government of India in 67 years (1947-2014) was Rs 54 lakh crore, whereas under the BJP rule, it had risen to over Rs 70 lakh crore between 2014 and 2019.

“If you divide the first amount by 67 years, the debt rose by Rs 74,000 crore annually, meaning Rs 6,200 crore per month. Since 2014, the debt has increased by approximately Rs 7 lakh crore every year, means Rs 60,000 crore every month. Consequently, they have increased the burden on the common man by 10 times,” he said.

# Cong places 57 ‘diyas’ at Martyrs’ Memorial

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

Punjab Congress leaders led by state president Sunil Jakhar today marched up to the Martyrs’ Memorial in Chandigarh, placing 57 extinguished earthen lamps on the ground to highlight the Centre’s “apathy” towards the loss of 57 farmer lives during the ongoing agitation.

“The Modi government has blood on its hands,” Jakhar said, adding that the march and laying of 57 extinguished lamps by the Congress was to tell the government to rise from its slumber

and repeal the three “black” farm laws at the earliest.



State Congress president Sunil Jakhar and other leaders pay tribute to deceased farmers in Chandigarh on Tuesday. PRADEEP TEWARI

# Direct mills to clear dues of cane farmers, SAD asks govt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) today asked the Congress government in the state to ensure that outstanding dues worth Rs 284 crore were released to sugarcane growers immediately. The party also called for an increase in the state assured price (SAP) of cane.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting of the SAD which was presided over by its president Sukhbir Singh Badal at the party headquarters here today. It was pointed out that cooperative mills



Sukhbir Singh Badal

owed farmers Rs 188 crore, including Rs 107 crore dues of the 2019-20 crushing season and Rs 81 crore for the ongoing season. Private sugar mills owed farmers Rs 96 crore, separately.

A press release said Badal pointed out that even as cooperative mills were

defaulting on regular payments to farmers, the government had not directed them to clear the outstanding dues of farmers. He said all dues of farmers should be cleared along with the interest quotient.

The SAD also demanded that the government should increase the SAP of sugarcane in Punjab in the current season. The state had not increased the SAP for the past three years. It said due to this, while the SAP of cane was Rs 310 per quintal in Punjab, both Haryana and Uttar Pradesh paid their farmers an SAP of Rs 350 per quintal.

# In khoya, gajrela, another sweet gesture for farmers

MANSA, JANUARY 5

Residents of Talwandi Aklia village in Mansa district have prepared ‘khoya’ and ‘gajrela’ in large quantities for farmers agitating at the Tikri border. While dairy owners contributed milk, confectioners prepared the dessert free of cost.

A member of the Punjab Kisan Union (PKU) from the village came up with the idea of preparing home-cooked sweets for the agitating farmers. As much as 17 quintals of milk was used for making ‘khoya’ and four quintals of carrots were used for preparing ‘gajrela’.

Everyone from the village



Residents of Talwandi Aklia are providing dairy products to farmers.

contributed to the cause. While one group grated the carrots, others cooked.

Deep Singh Kali, PKU president of the village unit, said, “After the idea was proposed by one of the members, we immediately

acquired the items required for making ‘khoya’ and ‘gajrela’. This will not only boost the morale of the agitating farmers, but will also strengthen the brotherly bond we share with them. — TNS

# ‘Nagar kirtan’ organised in farmers’ support

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABOHAR, JANUARY 5

Gurmat Vidyalyaya, Gurdwara Guru Sagar, located on the Abohar-Hanumangarh state highway, on Monday organised a ‘nagar kirtan’ in rural areas to garner support for the agitating farmers.

Led by ‘Panj Pyaras’, the procession started from the gurdwara and passed through Dholipal, Jandwali, Chishti, Manuka and Jodkian villages.

Sant Baba Harpreet Singh, who was leading the ‘nagar kirtan’, said villagers were made aware of the “black” farm laws enacted by the Central Government.

# Rain inundates tents, more trailers head to Delhi

ARCHIT WATTS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, JANUARY 5

As rain added to the miseries of farmers lodging protest at the Delhi borders, more tractor-trailers are now being sent from here for their stay.

For instance, some farmers of Gurusar village here were earlier staying in a tent pitched on a flyover at the Tikri border, but rainwater has now made it difficult for them to remain there. To help them out, two more trailers are now being sent from here.

“Presently, 28 people from our village are lodging a protest at the Tikri border. They have two tractor-trailers. However, their tent and trailers are stationed at a slope, mak-

ing it difficult for them to stay there during rain. Now, we are sending two more tractor-trailers and beddings for them,” said Ranjit Singh, a farmer from Gurusar village.

Similarly, farmers from some other villages claimed they were sending more trailers. “Though a number of philanthropists and NGOs have made temporary stay arrangements, the number of farmers is surging and waterlogging is making things difficult. Thus, more trailers are being brought from the villages, so that maximum number of people can stay there as these are covered with tarpaulin sheets,” said Gurpreet Singh Kotli, another farmer.



Farmers remove water from an inundated road at the Singhu border. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

# Long dry spell ends, Malwa growers cheer

MANSA/MUKTSAR, JANUARY 5

After a dry spell, the unseasoned rain in the Malwa region has brought smiles on the faces of the farmers. Dr Gurjinder Singh Romana, a scientist from Punjab Agricultural University, Regional Research Centre, Bathinda, said the rain was beneficial for all rabi crops, including wheat.

He said as per the Meteorological Department, more rain was likely in the coming days. Dr Romana said without rain, the wheat crop could not germinate. He said the rain was also beneficial for standing mustard, gram and barley crops in the

## Rain will benefit all rabi crops: Experts

fields of south Punjab and adjoining Haryana region. The agronomist also said although it was freezing cold in the Malwa belt at present, dry frost was not considered beneficial for the crops. Now, the rain had removed frost. Dr Manoj Kumar, development officer of the Agriculture Department, said farmers were worried this time as there had been no rainfall so far. With the sudden rain in the Malwa belt, there was a hope for a good harvest, he said. — TNS



# Drop in Covid cases to continue in Jan: Experts

After hitting peak in Sept, state sees 21% dip in Dec

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5  
As the state is getting ready for Covid vaccination launch, there seems some relief as experts say the decline in number of cases is likely to continue through January and early February in the state.  
In December, the state reported more than 21 per cent less cases as compared to previous months. The state had hit the peak in September when around 60,000 cases and around 2,000 deaths were reported.  
Following that, the cases started declining over the next two months. In October and November, the number of cases remained static at around 18,000 and deaths also came down to almost one fourth.  
However, last month the cases came down to around 14,500, which is over 20 per cent less cases. Experts say the decline will continue through January and may extend to February also.  
“As per the statistical models, this month the decline will continue. Even there seems to be some



A health official collects a swab sample in Nawanshahr. MALKIAT SINGH

IN NUMBERS		
Month	Cases	Deaths
Aug	37,873	1,067
Sept	59,894	1,954
Oct	18,007	736
Nov	18,116	593
Dec	14,431	534

relief in February,” said Rajesh Bhaskar, state’s nodal officer for Covid.  
The average number of cases per day remained around 250 in the past one week. Going by the trend, the number of cases may come down to half as com-

“As per the statistical models, the decline will continue this month. There seems to be some relief in February as well.”  
Rajesh Bhaskar,  
NODAL OFFICER FOR COVID, PUNJAB

# In Punjab, Haryana, wait for justice can be up to 3 decades

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5  
In Punjab and Haryana, the wait for justice can be up to three decades, with 19,15,727 cases pending in the district courts of the two states. National Judicial Data Grid — the monitoring tool to identify, manage and reduce pendency of cases — indicates that the litigants in 40 cases in Punjab and eight cases in Haryana have been awaiting justice for more than 30 years.  
In all, there are 11,01,023 cases pending in Haryana, including 7,14,594 dealing with criminal matters. The situation is a trifle better in Punjab, with 8,14,704 cases awaiting decision, including 4,66,467 criminal cases.  
Seven civil and 33 criminal matters involving life and liberty have been pending for more than 30 years in the courts across Punjab; 77 for 20 to 30 years; 1,693 for 10 to 20 years and 22,437 for five to 10 years. No less than 4,10,530 cases have been pending for one to three years.  
In Haryana, eight civil matters have been pending for more than 30 years; 48 for 20 to 30 years; 1,161 for 10 to 20 years; and 24,714 for five to 10 years. The hammer of justice is yet to fall on another 5,70,298 cases pending for one to three years.  
Punjab has 22 sessions divi-

**THE CASE FILE**  
**8,14,704**  
Cases pending in the district courts of Punjab  
**11,01,023**  
Cases pending in Haryana  
**19,15,727**  
Cases awaiting decision in the two states

sions, while Haryana has 21. The direct fallout of the colossal pendency is long adjournments and lesser number of hearings in a year, affecting not just the parties to the litigation, but also hampering the protection of fundamental rights. The effect of the ever-increasing pendency is also reflected in an increase in the number of undertrials or un-convicted prisoners lodged in the jails but facing trial in a court of law.  
The courts went into a restricted functioning mode since March following the Covid outbreak. The subordinate judiciary managed to dispose of on an average over 900 cases daily in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. But the rapid rate at which the pendency is growing in the subordinate courts can be gauged from the fact that 9,74,942 cases in Haryana and 7,39,015 in Punjab were pending just about four months back.

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# Interstate gang of hackers busted, 6 held

Created Chief Principal Secy’s fake FB account; were active in Punjab, Haryana, UP

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, JANUARY 5  
The cyber crime cell of the Punjab Police has arrested six hackers from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for creating a fake Facebook account in the name of Chief Principal Secretary to Punjab CM Suresh Kumar.  
Those arrested have been identified as Narendra Singh, Gulaab Singh, Bhaag Singh and Raman, all residents of Rajasthan, while Dinesh and Rahul belong to Madhya Pradesh. One accused is at large. The suspects were operating in Punjab, Haryana, UP and MP.

**THE MODUS OPERANDI**

- ATM cards were rented out from people or created under fake identities by procuring fake IDs to open bank accounts
- These accounts were then used to siphon off money from various scams, including OLX scam, Facebook scam, sex scam, etc.
- Connivance of bank employees in the racket could not be ruled out, said Arpit Shukla, Director-cum-ADGP, Bureau of Investigation

The police have recovered ATM cards, cash, SIM cards and a POS machine from the suspects. Arpit Shukla, Director-cum-ADGP, Bureau of Investigation, said the suspects had created a fake Facebook account in the name of Chief Principal Secretary to

Punjab CM and were defrauding people by asking for money, pretending to be him.  
DGP Dinkar Gupta formed three teams and dispatched them to UP, Rajasthan and MP. The arrests are likely to solve similar cases related to Facebook hacking, OLX/

bank frauds and a host of other cyber-related crimes.  
Investigations suggest Dinesh and Rahul, nephews of Madan Lal, used his IDs to open bank accounts in his (Lal’s) name and usurp money obtained fraudulently.  
The suspects moved in three different states of Haryana, UP and Rajasthan as their primary base was located at the tri-junction of these. The police located the whereabouts of Narender, in whose account the ill-gotten money was deposited, and arrested him from Bharatpur in Rajasthan. “On further probe, another gang member, Gulaab Singh, was

apprehended, which led to the disclosure of a full-scale racket being run in the area,” Shukla said.  
He said the connivance of some bank employees in the racket could not be ruled out. Further probe led to the arrest of Bhaag Singh and Raman Kumar, the kingpin in the money circulation of such rackets as they provide ATM cards, SIM cards and IDs to fraudsters, who hired their services for a 10 per cent cut in the money withdrawn through his money siphoning channel.  
A case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC and the IT Act.

# AAP seeks CBI probe into scholarship scam

JALANDHAR, JANUARY 5  
Though a high-level team probing the alleged multi-crore scam in the disbursement of funds under the SC Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme reportedly gave a clean chit to Social Welfare and Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, AAP state in-charge and Delhi MLA Jarnail Singh and Leader of Opposition in Punjab Legislative Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema today demanded a CBI inquiry into the scam and strict action against the minister.  
Cheema said the future of lakhs of Dalit students in the state was at stake. “Due to non-receipt of scholarship funds by the government, private colleges have withheld degrees of students, which is highly condemnable. Apart from conducting a fair inquiry into the scam, action should be taken against the

Harpal Singh Cheema

college authorities for withholding the degrees.”  
He said the Centre had refused to send the next instalment of the scholarship funds due to the alleged Rs 63-crore scam by Dharamsot.  
Meanwhile, over a dozen Congress leaders, including Neeraj Mittal, PPCC general secretary; Balkar Singh Chatha, chairman, sports and culture cell, Jalandhar District Congress Committee; and Hemant Sabharwal, former PPCC secretary, joined the AAP today. — TNS

# Multani hearing put off till Feb

SC tells state to file copy of chargesheet against Saini

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5  
The Supreme Court today asked the state government to file a copy of the chargesheet against former DGP SS Saini as it put off the hearing on his plea for quashing the FIR against him in the Balwant Singh Multani murder case till second week of February.  
The top court has already granted anticipatory bail to Saini in the case, “considering the fact that the impugned FIR has been lodged by the brother of the deceased after a period of almost 29 years from the date of incident”. The former DGP has challenged a Punjab and Haryana High Court order that had turned down his plea seeking quashing of the FIR and stay on further investigation in the case.  
On Tuesday, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, repre-

**FORMER DGP'S PLEA**

■ Ex-DGP SS Saini has challenged an HC order that had turned down his plea seeking quashing of the FIR and stay on further probe  
■ Multani, a junior engineer, was allegedly picked up by the police in Dec 1991 after a terror attack on Saini that left three cops dead

sending Saini, urged a Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan to stay further proceedings in the case even as senior counsel Dushyant Dave opposed it on behalf of

the complainant. Terming it a “very serious case” that involved charges of kidnapping and murder, Dave sought to highlight that the accused was facing certain other murder charges as well.  
On behalf of the State of Punjab, senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam and Vikas Singh informed the Bench that a chargesheet had been filed and summons issued to the accused.  
The SC asked the state government to file a copy of the chargesheet along with additional documents after Subramaniam and Singh said all facts and material should be placed before the court in view of the sensitivity of the matter. The Bench posted the matter for further hearing in the second week of February. Earlier, the matter was adjourned as the HC impugned order was not on record.

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**Contact : 99141-22085**  
**CL20080196**  
**Dayanand Public School, Pandusar Street, Nabha, CBSE Affiliated (No. 1630080)** invites applications for the post of TGT (English, S.St.), Counselor, Special Educator, Dance Teacher (female) and Martial Art instructor. Fluency in English is must. Qualifications and salary as per CBSE norms. Apply within 5 days to the Principal at dpsnba@yahoo.com (CL20080916)

**Required Vice Principal having min. 5 years teaching experience.** Contact: Indian Public Sr. Sec. School, Shimlapuri Tedhi Road, Jainta Theka Chowk, Ludhiana. Call/ WhatsApp 98767-32524, 79862-43489. Mail: ipslohara@yahoo.com (CL20080579)

**British Victoria School, CBSE affiliated Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Punjab.** Application are invited for the post of female Principal and PRT, TGT, PGT (NTT, English, Maths, Science, S.St., Computer, Political Science, Economics, Physical Education, Chemistry, Bio Teachers etc). Accommodation available send your CV at [info@britishvictoriaschool.com](mailto:info@britishvictoriaschool.com) Ph.: 62393-12893. (CL20080939)

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## LOST &amp; FOUND

**It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2013 March and Roll No. 2702048. Issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Shivani Kaushik w/o Satish Kumar, Sidhuwal, Patiala. (CL20080731)**

## TENDER NOTICE

**YPS Mohali desires to purchase FHD/ 4K integrated flat panel 85" with OPS and Logitech Group Webinar equipment for its conference room. Interested vendors to send proposals to Director, YPS Mohali in sealed envelopes within 4 days from the date of Advertisement. Director reserves the right to reject any or all quotations without assigning any reasons. (CL20080922)**

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**I, Rajbeer s/o Manjeet Singh, Shamshabad Patti, Sirsa, have changed name to Rajbeer Singh. (CL20080947)**  
**I, Pinky w/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar r/o H.No. 80, VPO, Behlana, Chandigarh (UT) have changed my name to Kusum Lata. (CL20080902)**

**I, Meva Ram s/o Ishwer Chand r/o District Karnal, have changed name of my minor daughter Milan to Milan Bharti. (CL20080940)**

**I, Jasbinder Pal s/o Surjan Lal r/o Village Wariana, PO Nagra (Jalandhar), declared that I have changed my name Jasbinder Pal to Jasvinder Pal Concerned please notice. (CL20080879)**

**I, Kuldeep Kumar s/o Sh. H.S. Guleria r/o Moon Beam Cottage, Upper Line Cemetery, Sanjauli, Tehsil & District Shimla, HP have changed my name to Kuldeep Guleria. All concerned please note. (CL20080918)**

**I, Priyanka Yadav daughter of Ajit Singh Yadav r/o 408, E Block, R1 Dlf Hyde Park, New Chandigarh, Mohali - 140901, have changed my name to Priyanka Yadav for all purposes. (CL20080831)**  
**I, Jasneet Singh s/o Ajaib Singh r/o Vill. & Post Office Bhagawal, Teh. Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur, have changed my name from Jasneet Singh to Jasneet Singh. Concerned note. (CL20080943)**

**I, Rama Rani Kaushal D/o No. JC-723475-H Rank Late Nb/ Sub Sh. Roshan Lal Resident of Village Rakhi, Ghansot, PO and Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt Solan (HP) declare that in my father's Army record my name is wrongly entered as Rama Rani whereas my correct name is Rama Rani Kaushal. Concerned note. (CL20080780)**

**I, Suhag Rani Wd/O JC-79012 Late Nb Sub Ram Murti resident of House No. 1667, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh have changed name of my daughter in defence records from Neelam and date of birth 9.8.1972 is incorrect to Neelam Rani and her correct date of birth is 08.05.1971 vide affidavit dated 31 Dec. 2020 before Notary Chandigarh. (CL20080794)**

**I Kulwinder Singh s/o Kahan Singh r/o H.No. 30, Green Avenue, PO Model Town, Jalandhar declare that my son Parampreet Singh and his wife Gurpreet Kaur are out of my control. Therefore, I disinherit them from all my movable/ immovable property. Any body deals with them will do so at his own risk and responsibility. (CL20080875)**

**For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.**  
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## COURT NOTICES

## (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of  
Ms. Sandeep Kaur  
Civil Judge,  
Junior Division-12,  
Patiala.  
State Bank of India  
Vs,  
Surnam Chand Malhotra

CNR No.:  
PBPT02-000328-2019  
Next Date: 02.02.2021

Suit for recovery  
Publication issued to:  
Surnam Chand Malhotra s/o  
Jallu Ram r/o Vill. Meen  
Charkkan, PO Smailpur,  
Distt. Samba, Jammu.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 02.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details login to:  
[https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=patiala](https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala)

Dated, this day of  
29.12.2020.

Sd/- Civil Judge,  
Junior Division-12,  
CL20080861 Patiala.

## (U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of  
Deepika Singh  
Addl. Civil Judge,  
(Senior Division)-I,  
SAS Nagar.  
CNR No.:  
PBSA02-000926-2020  
Next Date: 25.01.2021  
Kuldeep Kumar  
Versus  
Meenu Gupta  
(Suit for Recovery)

Notice to:  
Smt. Meenu Gupta d/o Sh. Prem Chand, r/o Aggarwal Plywood Store, Tehsil Road, Near Govt. College, Gohana, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 25.01.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details login to:  
[https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=mohali](https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali)

Dated, this day of  
21.12.2020.

Sd/-  
Addl. Civil Judge,  
(Senior Division)-I,  
CL20080956 SAS Nagar.

## Gurdaspur, Ferozepur to get campus varsities

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

To improve the reach and quality of technical education, the Punjab Government is bringing in legislation in the coming Budget session to set up two state campus universities in Gurdaspur and Ferozepur.

Besides, the construction work to set up Skill University at Chamkaur Sahib would be completed this year under the first phase after the IKG PTU, Kapurthala, sanctioned Rs 120 crore for the project, said Charanjit Singh Channi, Technical Education, Employment Generation and Cultural Affairs Minister.

Sharing new initiatives being taken in the field of technical education, he said the IIT-Ropar had been roped in to improve the quality of education at the state-run Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering and Technology, Ferozepur, and Beant College of Engineering and Technology, Gurdaspur.

With focus on Punjabi language, the department had translated technical education books into Punjabi. Besides, a bank of more than 25,000 questions in Punjabi language has been sent to the Directorate General of Training, Government of India, for setting question papers in Punjabi for students from

## PLACEMENT CELL

■ The Punjab Government will start a foreign study and placement cell from February 15

■ The cell has been formed under the Punjab Ghar Ghar Rozgar and Karobaar Mission for the aspirants who wish to study abroad

■ The cell will be started in Mohali as a pilot project. In the next phase, the talks are on with foreign universities to get study visa

the state. Earlier, the question papers were only in English and Hindi.

The minister talked about various steps like checking large-scale copying during the exams by installing CCTVs, improving enrolment in the government polytechnic colleges and industrial training institutes to 87 per cent, introducing dual system of training in ITIs and setting up of 19 new ITIs.

Meanwhile, the state government is set to celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur from April 28 to May 1 on the theme of "Guru Teg Bahadur-Hind Di Chadar" Technical Education Minister Charanjit Channi said the state had already released the logo for various programmes. Developmental projects in Sri Anandpur Sahib, Baba Bakala and Kiratpur Sahib are the part of the celebrations.

**JALANDHAR IMPROVEMENT TRUST JALANDHAR**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
**E-Tender/IT/Jalandhar/06/ 2020-21**  
The Jalandhar Improvement Trust Jalandhar invites online bids for 8 No.s development work:-  
Online Availability of Tenders for bidding :- 06-01-2021 upto 11:00 AM (For Serial No. 1 to 8)  
Closing Date & Time :- 21-01-2021 upto 01:00 PM (For Serial No. 1 to 8)  
Opening Date & Time :- 21-01-2021 at 02:00 PM (For Serial No. 1 to 8)  
For details login to :- [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)  
**Note:** Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.  
**Sd/- Superintendent Engineer, Improvement Trust, Jalandhar.**  
DPR/Pb/453

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**ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰਿੰਗ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਨੰ. 1 (2021) ਮਿਤੀ 04.01.2021**  
ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਟਿੰਡੀਨੀਅਰ (ਸ) ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇੰਨਲਿਸਟਡ ਡੇਕੋਰਾ/ਰਸਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਲਈ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ:-  
(1) ਮਾਰਕੀਟ ਕਮੇਟੀ, ਦੀਨਾਨਗਰ/ਡੇਰਾ ਬਾਬਾ ਨਾਨਕ ਅਪੀਨ ਪੈਂਚੀਆਂ ਲਿੰਕ ਸੜਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਵੀਂ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਕਰਨਾ, ਬੀਏਡੀਪੀ, ਸਕੀਮ ਅਪੀਨ ਸਾਲ 2019-20 (ਮਿੱਟੀ ਦੀ ਕੰਪੋਜ਼ੇਸ਼ਨ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਕਾਰਪੋਟ ਸਮੇਤ ਪੁਲੀਆਂ, ਨਾਲੀਆਂ, ਰਿਟੇਨਿਗਵਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਰੋਡ ਕਰਨੀਚਰ ਆਦਿ)  
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੇਰਵਿਆਂ, ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੰਧਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਬੋਲੀ ਸੱਦਾ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਹੋਰ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਲਈ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਦਾ ਹਵਾਲਾ ਲਵੋ।  
ਨੋਟ: ਸੋਧ ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਰੀ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਸਿਰਫ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।  
ਸਹੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਟਿੰਡੀਨੀਅਰ (ਸ),  
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ।  
DPR/Pb/422

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
**PWD B&R BRANCH**  
**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**  
**TENDER NOTICE NO. 19 DATED: 05.1.2021**  
Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1, PWD B&R Br., SAS Nagar (Mohali) invites, bids from eligible bidders enlisted with Punjab PWD (B&R) for Widening of Morinda - Sri Chamkaur Sahib-Bela Road in Km. 00.00 to 20.35 ODR-02 4-laning including Five Years maintenance approved Under Head 5054 RB-10 Road Work (2020-2021) in Distt. Rupnagar.  
For detail terms and conditions of notice inviting bids, refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> w.e.f. 06.1.2021.  
Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website/Notice Board only.  
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Constrn. Divn. No. 1, PWD B&R Br., SAS Nagar.**  
DPR/Pb/424

**PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION, CHANDIGARH**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
**TENDER NO.: PSWC/CTO/2020-21/01**  
Punjab State Warehousing Corporation (PSWC - A Govt. of Punjab Undertaking) invites e-Tenders for Comprehensive Centrally Monitored Electronic Surveillance System for PSWC Warehousing locations. For details, please login to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Any corrigendum(s)/addendum to the RFP notice shall be published on above website.  

Timeline		
S. No.	Activity	Scheduled Date
1	Date of Publishing e-tender	06.01.2021
2	Last date for downloading of e-tender	28.01.2021
3	Last date for submission of e-tender	28.01.2021
4	Date for opening Pre-qualification-cum Technical Bids	28.01.2021

**Sd/- Managing Director**  
DPR/Pb/474

**कार्यालय उप निदेशक, पर्यटन एवं नागरिक उड्डयन विभाग, कांगड़ा स्थित धर्मशाला**  
संख्या : डीटीओ/डीएमएसएल/ए/3/94— दिनांक 05.01.2021  
**नीलामी सूचना**  
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिला पर्यटन विकास कार्यालय के वाहन संख्या एच.पी.39बी-0107 ऑल्टो मॉडल संख्या 2008 जोकि जिला पर्यटन विकास कार्यालय, धर्मशाला की पार्किंग में खड़ी है, की नीलामी दिनांक 22.01.2021 को सुबह 11:30 बजे निम्नलिखित विवरण अनुसार की जाएगी :-  

वाहन की पंजीकरण संख्या	वाहन का विवरण	नीलामी की जाह
एच.पी.68बी-0107	इंजन नं. FSDN4236162 वैली नं. MA3EYD81SO1139223	जिला पर्यटन विकास कार्यालय, धर्मशाला।

प्रत्येक बोलीदाता को मु. 5,000/- रु. की ब्याना राशि बोली में भाग लेने से पहले जमा करवाना होगा। बोली के परचायत असफल बोलीदाता की ब्याना राशि वापस कर दी जाएगी तथा सफल बोलीदाता की राशि को कुल जमा राशि में समायोजित किया जाएगा।  
शेष जानकारी के लिए जिला पर्यटन विकास कार्यालय, धर्मशाला में किसी भी कार्यादिकस को सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

उप-निदेशक, पर्यटन,  
कांगड़ा स्थित धर्मशाला।  
दूरभाष : 01892-224430  
DPR/HP/644

## NIA files addl chargesheet against 2 in narco-terror case

SANJAY BUMBROO  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, JANUARY 5

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today said it had filed a supplementary chargesheet against two accused in the Hizbul Mujahideen narco-terror case in a Special Court at Mohali.

The two accused are Jaswant Singh, alias Jassa, a resident of Gurdaspur, and Gursant Singh, alias Gora, a resident of Tarn Taran.

The supplementary chargesheet was filed under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 419 (cheating by personation), 471 (use as genuine forged document), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code; 8/21, 27A and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act; and Sections 17, 18 and 20 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

## Woman, two daughters found dead, 3 booked

SANGRUR, JANUARY 5

The police have registered an abetment to suicide case against three persons after three bodies, including those of two minor girls and their mother, were found at Saron village here late last evening.

Victim Baljit Kaur's relatives alleged she was facing humiliation at the hands of her husband and in-laws for not giving birth to a boy and was forced to commit suicide. The police said they had recovered a suicide note, wherein the woman had not blamed anyone. Baljit's brother Jagdev Singh alleged, "Her husband, his mother and father had been harassing her after she gave birth to the first daughter in 2015. After the birth of the second daughter in 2018, they again started harassing her. She killed herself and both daughters after facing harassment.

Last evening, the police recovered the bodies of Anshnoor Kaur (5) and her sister Virasat Kaur (2) from a room. Baljit's body was found hanging from a ceiling fan. The bodies were shifted to the Civil Hospital. A case has been registered against victim's husband Avtar Singh, his mother Balwant Kaur and her husband Mankhandi Singh. — TNS

## HC: No harm in publishing absconders' names on Net

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that there was no harm in publishing the names of absconders on the Internet. Justice Amol Rattan Singh asserted the Punjab Police Rules were promulgated in 1934, when there was no Internet. The only social media available at that time was newspapers and magazines.

Justice Singh said the statutory provisions of the Punjab Police Rules and any other statutory provisions not brought to the notice of the court would be adhered to by the two states of Punjab and Haryana and UT Chandigarh regarding absconders/persons not

**DRUGS SMUGGLED FROM PAK**  
■ Jaswant Singh and Gursant Singh are accused of role in collection, sale of heroin smuggled from Pak  
■ They also channelled proceeds for furthering the activities of terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen  
■ Gursant purchased immovable properties for use as hide-outs and luxury cars for transport of drugs and proceeds



Investigations revealed the two were involved in collection, distribution and sale of heroin smuggled from Pakistan besides channelling proceeds for furthering the activities of the terror outfit.

Accused Gursant Singh was a key member of the outfit and as a close associate of prime accused Iqbal Singh, alias Shera, responsible for safe movement of heroin and proceeds to various places/unknown persons.

The investigations also suggested he had purchased immovable properties for use as hideouts and luxury cars for transport of drugs and proceeds.

Earlier, the NIA had fled chargesheet on October 20 against 10 persons. Of these, Hilal Ahmed Sher-gojri, Bikram Singh, Maninder Singh, Ranjit Singh, Jaswant Singh, Ranjit Singh and Gagan-deep Singh had been arrested, while Iqbal



Protesters block the Dhariwal bypass on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Protesters seek SHO's suspension, block NH

GURDASPUR, JANUARY 5

Protesters today blocked the 120 km Pathankot-Gurdaspur-Amritsar National Highway over the alleged police inaction in booking the accused involved in the murder of a youth by a Congress sarpanch on Monday.

Pathankot, Dinanagar, Gurdaspur, Nausheera Majha Singh, Dhariwal, Batala and Amritsar had to bear the brunt of the blockade. Long jams could be seen on both sides of the highway as adamant protesters demanded the suspension of Dhariwal SHO Manjit Singh. Gurdaspur SSP Rajinder Singh Sohail reached the spot and tried negotiating with the mob to lift the blockade.

On Monday, the sitting Congress sarpanch of Dhadwan village, Lovinder Singh, and five others allegedly murdered a

## YOUTH MURDERED

“After the man was murdered, the SHO and the sarpanch spoke to each other several times. This makes us apprehensive about his role in shielding the accused. A protester

youth, Roka Masih. SSP Sohail said the crime was a result of an old enmity. A case has been registered against Lovinder Singh and his colleagues. The protesters pitched a tent in the middle of the highway, near the Dhariwal bypass. The police were forced to intervene. “Lovinder lured Roka Masih to his house, following which a quarrel ensued, resulting in the murder. We have arrested one of the accuse. Our priority is to lift the blockade,” said Sohail. — TNS

**TIME HAS CHANGED**  
“The only social media available at that time (when Punjab Police Rules, 1934, were promulgated) was newspapers and magazines. But the court would see no harm in extending the publishing of the names of such persons, as are statutory allowed to be published vide the Rules, in the social media as available via the Internet. Justice Amol Rattan Singh, HIGH COURT

being arrested despite warrants for their arrest having been issued.

Justice Singh said the directions issued earlier by the court in Malak Singh's case would be complied with strictly by the two states and the UT regarding entries and continuation of names of “accused persons” in the surveillance registers main-

tained in police stations.

The HC had earlier asked Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh Directors-General of Police to specify whether surveillance registers carrying names of “bad characters” were being reviewed continuously.

The direction came after Justice Singh was told that the HC had in 2005 ordered

Singh and Zafar Hussain Bhat were at large. Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo was killed.

The NIA took over the investigation on May 8 last year. The case was initially registered at the Sadar police station in Amritsar on April 25 following the arrest of Hilal Ahmed and recovery of Rs 29 lakh from his possession by the Punjab Police.

During investigation, it was revealed that Hilal, who had come to Amritsar to collect Rs 29 lakh, was a member of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and an aide of Naikoo, the then commander of the outfit in Kashmir. “Hilal's arrest led to busting of a major narco-terror module involved in the smuggling and sale of heroin in India and channelling of proceeds to Pakistan through hawala and to terrorists based in Jammu and Kashmir,” the NIA said in the statement.

## Ropar DC orders probe into illegal construction

The Tribune IMPACT

ROPAR, JANUARY 5

Taking cognisance of a report published in these columns on Monday regarding construction of a shopping complex on the Anandpur Sahib-Nangal National Highway-503 (extension) at Patti village in Nangal tehsil, Deputy Commissioner Sonali Giri today ordered an inquiry into the matter.

The DC has asked XENs of the PUDA and PWD, Central Division, to file a report within a week. She urged general public to refrain from investing in the property till the landowners and builders were traced. Meanwhile, PWD officials have dug up a trench between their land on the road and the shopping complex.

Investigations suggested a few property dealers after purchasing land from owners had started construction of nearly 40 shops and two restaurants on the edge of the road despite the PUDA rules prohibiting any permanent construction within 100 feet from such a road. The DC said no official would be spared in case of lapses on their part. — TNS

**We Miss You**  
Smt. Kamlesh Prakash (Wife)  
Vikas Garg (Son)  
Vatsal Garg (Grandson)  
Nidhi - Avinash Modi (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Preeti - Rajneesh Garg (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Vasundhara - Raghuvar Modi (Grand Daughter in Law & Son)  
Upasana - Aayush Poddar (Grand Daughter & Son in Law)  
Pranav Garg, Abhinav Garg (Grand Children)  
Anahita Modi, Meera Poddar (Great Grand Daughters)  
**Management and Staff**  
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**Ch. Manphol Singh Satya Prakash**  
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Mob : 98140-87902  
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Founder President: Gobindgarh Educational & Social Welfare Trust, Mandi Gobindgarh  
Institutes of the Trust: Gobindgarh Public school, Punjab Institute of Management Technology, Gobindgarh Public College  
Chartered President: Lions Club, Mandi Gobindgarh  
Ex-President: All India Metal Forging Association  
Trustee: Mahant Prabhat Puri Social Welfare Trust



# Concrete shelter coming up at Tikri

**RAVINDER SAINI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**JHAJJAR, JANUARY 5**  
Getting ready for the long haul, protesting farmers have started constructing concrete structures on the road at the Tikri border, where they have been camping since November 27. The construction is aimed at protecting them and their belongings from rain. Some farmers brought bricks to the protest site on Tuesday and initiated construction of a wall for a rain shelter after performing 'bhoomi poojan'. A mason and labourers were hired for the construction, with farmers helping them. Farmers raised 'Kisan Ekta Zindabad' slogans while passing through the site. "We have been here for around 40 days. Intermittent rain in the past few days has filled our tent with water,



**MESSAGE FOR CENTRE**

“Intermittent rain in the past few days has filled our tent with water, soaked blankets and clothes and damaged laptops, forcing us to construct a concrete structure. It is also a message to the Centre that we won't go back until the farm laws are repealed.”

**Anoop Singh, PROTESTING FARMER**

“A concrete structure being built on a road at the Tikri border on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

soaked blankets and clothes and damaged laptops, forcing us to construct a concrete structure. It is also a message to the Centre that we will not go back until the three farm laws are repealed,” said Anoop Singh, a farmer. Jashpreet Singh from Punjab said since the Centre did not seem ready to repeal the three farm laws, they had no option but to build concrete structures on the road to fight the battle effectively. More structures would be constructed in the coming days, he asserted. “Farmers are prepared for the long haul and will do whatever is necessary in this battle of protecting the agricultural sector from capitalists,” said Virender Hooda, a farmer from Rohtak. Meanwhile, 15 farm organisations from Haryana held a meeting in Bahadurgarh on Tuesday. They decided to launch a ‘Jan Jagran

Abhiyan’ for mustering more local support to strengthen the protest. “We will visit villages and motivate people to join the protest for forcing the Centre to repeal the three black laws,” said Rajender Arya Dadupur, chief of the Bhartiya Kisan Mazdoor Naujawan Union.

## SIDELIGHTS

### Tractor march today

**Karnal:** Farmers have decided to take out a tractor rally in Karnal on Wednesday. BKU (Charuni) members will assemble at the local grain market between 10 am and 11 pm and start the rally. Jagdeep Singh Aulakh of the BKU (Charuni) state core panel said farmers' unions had decided to take out a tractor rally on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway on Thursday.

**Indri MLA faces stir**

**Karnal:** A group of farmers on Tuesday opposed the visit of BJP's Indri MLA Ram Kumar Kashyap to Muradgarh village. Holding black flags, they assembled outside the venue, where the MLA was chairing a meeting of workers. The police stopped them from entering the venue and sent them back.

## Cold wave, rain no dampener

**PARVEEN ARORA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, JANUARY 5**  
Bone-chilling cold coupled with rain and wind have failed to dampen the spirits of farmers, who have been protesting at the Bastara toll plaza on the NH-44 and the Peont toll plaza on the Karnal-Jind NH-709A since December 25. Amid the harsh weather, the farmers continued their dharna on Tuesday and said they would not call off the protest until the demands were met. “For the past five to six days, the weather has been harsh, but it is not a deterrent for farmers,” said Rampa Chahal, president of the committee constituted for the Bastara toll plaza. To keep themselves in high spirits, farmers entertain themselves by singing “ragi-



ni”, cracking jokes and smoking “hookah”. Vishal Mehla, a farmer, said: “We will not budge from here until the three laws are revoked.” Another farmer Jaipal Punia said they were habitual to harsh weather. Meanwhile, a group of advocates of the Karnal Bar Association extended support to the agitation on Tuesday and observed fast at the Bastara toll plaza. “We will continue supporting the farmers,” said Nirmaljeet Singh Virk, former president of the Bar Association.

## Willing to resign from House, says Abhay

**GURUGRAM, JANUARY 5**  
INLD leader Abhay Chautala on Tuesday met farmers protesting in Gurugram and pledged unconditional support. He said he would not shy away from resigning from the Vidhan Sabha if required. Abhay met farmers protesting under the banner of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha near the Mini-Secretariat. He said every worker of his party would march in support of farmers without the party flag. “I support farmers and even if I have to sacrifice my position in the Vidhan Sabha, I will not think twice. We will go to the Singhu border on January 7 not as party men, but as farmers. We will sit with farmers,” he said. — OC

# HC issues contempt notice to Rewari Sainik School principal

**SAURABH MALIK**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5**  
Rewari Sainik School Principal Col Soumyabrata Dhar and two other respondents have landed themselves in contempt loop for not admitting a minor student. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that prima facie, the respondents appeared to be in contempt of a judicial order dated November 11 last year.



“This court is constrained to issue a suo motu contempt notice to the respondents by their names to show cause why proceedings not be initiated against them under the Contempt of Courts Act for wilful disobedience of the order,” Justice Arun Monga asserted. The order by Justice Monga was initially passed on December 18 and came up for hearing again on December 22 before Justice BS Walia's Bench. The matter stands adjourned to February 11 as counsel for Colonel Dhar requested for time to file reply. The case has its genesis in

an order passed by Justice Monga on a petition filed by a minor through counsel DS Nriban for directions to the Union of India and other respondents to consider and admit him to Class VI in the school. Allowing the petition, Justice Monga had directed the respondents to accommodate the minor in the current academic session by giving him admission and permitting him to attend classes. “It would not be out of place to deprecate the highly condemnable conduct of the respondents in deliberately filing an elusive reply to the queries of this court, notwithstanding that ample opportunities were granted to render assistance to this court to apprise about actual reality. Yet nothing was forthcoming. Such a conduct of litigants makes the onerous duty and

position of the counsel representing them very vulnerable for no fault of theirs,” Justice Monga had asserted. The matter came up for hearing again with the filing of a review application. Dismissing the pleas with Rs 10,000 costs, Justice Monga had asserted that the evasive and condescending conduct continued unabated, perhaps due to leniency shown by the court to overlook it during the writ proceedings. Even now, information that was sought was not properly disclosed. Justice Monga added that it transpired that the minor has not been admitted to the school despite a lapse of more a month on the grounds that admissions stood concluded as on October 31. The writ petition was filed way before the date, but the petitioner was not permitted to join online classes in non-compliance of the order, Justice Monga added. A direction was issued to forthwith allow the minor to have access to online education being imparted currently by the school.

## Vaccine dry run in state tomorrow

**CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5**  
To ensure the successful roll-out of the Covid vaccine, a dry run will be conducted on Thursday at six places, also called session sites — three urban and as many rural — from 11 am to 1 pm. Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan said this while presiding over a meeting of the state steering committee and the state task force for the Covid vaccine here on Tuesday. All DCs were part of the meeting through videoconferencing. “It is mandatory to record



67 lakh people will be vaccinated this year

the details of healthcare workers, who will participate in the dry run,” Vardhan said. Additional Chief Secretary (Health and Family Welfare)

Rajeev Arora said the purpose of the dry run was to identify the challenges in the vaccine rollout. As per the Centre's guidelines, healthcare workers will be the first ones to be vaccinated. After that, frontline workers such as municipality and sanitation workers, state and central police forces, civil defence and armed forces, and revenue officers will be vaccinated. People over 50 years will be third group of people to receive jab followed by those below the age of 50 years. — TNS

## State allocates ₹29 crore for road safety

**HISAR, JANUARY 5**  
Facing flak for digging up roads to stop protesting farmers marching towards Delhi in November last year, the state government has allocated Rs 29.55 crore to ensure road safety for the 2020-21 fiscal. Sources say the regulatory

wing of the Transport Department has allocated the budget to six departments. The funds were allocated following a meeting of the fund management committee of the department held on August 31, 2020. Of the total budget, Rs 10.85

crore has been allocated to the Police Department, while the Road Transport Authority (RTA) of each district has been allocated Rs 20 lakh. As there are 22 districts in the state, this amounts to Rs 4.40 crore. The Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads)

has been given Rs 5.50 crore, while the Elementary Education Department has received Rs 5.60 crore. The Health Department and the Higher Education Department have been allocated Rs 2.20 crore and Rs 1 crore, respectively. — TNS



**Padmashree**  
**Brig. (Dr.) Kapil Mohan VSM (Retd.)**  
**16.07.1929 - 06.01.2018**

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Your principles guide us everyday  
and your life continues to light our path.

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# The Tribune

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## Clearance for Central Vista

Reach out to project's opponents, be sensitive to concerns

THE Supreme Court's go-ahead to the controversial Central Vista revamp project clears the way for a new Parliament building. It is envisaged to be ready by August 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th Independence Day. The 2:1 majority verdict came on petitions challenging the December 2019 notification regarding change of land use. The petitioners contended that the notification violated the citizen's right to life by depriving people of open and green spaces. There were also allegations of violations of municipal and environmental laws, besides lack of transparency. The redevelopment plan aims to free up land in the heart of the Capital and have a common Central Secretariat.

The dissenting verdict came from Justice Khanna, who agreed with Justices Khanwilkar and Maheshwari on the aspects of the notice inviting bids, the award of contract and the order of the urban commission. Where he did not agree was on the issues of change of land use and environmental clearances. Several public figures have been quite vocal in expressing concern regarding the urgency to formalise such a grand project in the times of the Covid emergency and the potential damage to the environs. On the matter of conservation of heritage, the apex court wants clearances to be sought. Also on its to-do list is the setting up of smog towers. The project proponent has been asked to ensure these as an integral part, with directions to the Ministry of Environment and Forests to install smog towers in future projects.

The groundbreaking ceremony last month was boycotted by the Opposition and frowned upon by the apex court since the case was pending. Now that the project has been approved, the Centre needs to reach out across the political spectrum and be mindful of the apprehensions. It claims the Central Vista will take care of deficiencies of the existing Parliament building like inadequate space, structural weaknesses and security problems, and save the public exchequer crores paid as rent for offices. That may be sound logic, but building an edifice for a forum meant for informed discussion and debate while giving these the go-by is a false start.

## Players must respect rules

Cricketers breaking Covid protocol is indefensible

THE case of the bio-secure bubble burst by five Indian cricketers in Australia has taken a jingoistic turn. Logic and sanity are the first victims when this happens. But the facts are plain enough. Five Indian cricketers did break Covid-19 protocol by dining indoors in a Melbourne restaurant. The rules allow the squad members to dine out, but only in an open environment; however, the players had dinner in an enclosed area. The incident came to light only when an Indian-origin fan posted a video recording of the five players in the restaurant, with the claim that he had paid their bill and that one of them, Rishabh Pant, gave him a hug. The fan later did a U-turn and said that in fact, there was no physical contact between him and any player. But the damage had been done, and the matter is being investigated. It later emerged that earlier on the tour, captain Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya also broke Covid protocol by visiting a shop for babies' goods and interacting with employees, and none of them had masks on.

Some former players and analysts are claiming that the Australians are making a mountain out of a molehill in order to put pressure on the Indian players. It is claimed that the five players moved indoors only due to rain, and that they followed all other Covid-prevention rules. This sort of defence, based on jingoism, is not honest — clearly, rules were broken, and that is indefensible. One mistake can cause an outbreak of the virus, with disastrous results — in December, England's tour of South Africa was called off after the outbreak of Covid-19 among players and staff at their hotel. The risks are real.

The cost of creating a bio-secure bubble is high, as is the financial loss if a series is called off due to the outbreak of the virus. The players, some of whom have been in a bi-secure bubble for close to five months, are under mental stress and many of them wish to break free — if they cannot take it any more, they must quit the squad. But they can't have it both ways. They are role models, and it is their responsibility to follow rules.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace. — Mahatma Gandhi

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1921

### Romancing the British Press.

IT is obvious that someone is at the old game of misrepresenting and exaggerating events in India in the British Press. How else is one to explain or understand the reference to what are described as "stormy incidents at the Nagpur National Congress" in the *Daily Telegraph*? We all know that there was a scuffle, a most regrettable scuffle. But would any man in his senses or with any idea of proportion make too much of that incident in the light of what happened subsequently? The plain fact seems to be that someone sent a picturesque telegram about the incident in a hurry and without waiting for the sequel, and that the *Daily Telegraph* itself not only lost no time in commenting upon the incident in its characteristically erratic fashion, but actually drew a moral exactly after its heart. We are told that "those seem to be completely justified who believe that the pace in India has been unduly forced and that the changes recently sanctioned by Parliament are premature." Well, if the happening of a petty scuffle like what took place at Nagpur disqualifies a whole people for the enjoyment of freedom, no country in the West has any right to that commodity, neither England nor America, neither France nor Italy. And is it not a fact that in spite of the daily occurrence of events in Ireland a hundred times more serious than this incident, or any other incident in our recent history, the British Government, the British Parliament and the British people are unanimous in offering an incomparably larger measure of self-government to that country than what the Reform Act has given India. Does the *Daily Telegraph* writer imagine that he is writing only for simpletons?

# BJP's new power order

Tweaked hierarchy gives it full control, reducing RSS's interventions



RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

SENIOR JOURNALIST

A N organisational restructuring in the BJP is rarely news-worthy unless the change is effected at the top or a big-time functionary such as Ram Madhav is dropped from the central team of office-bearers and Vasundhara Raje is shafted to pave the way for a leadership makeover in Rajasthan. Recently, JP Nadda, the BJP president, quietly tweaked the organisational hierarchy to reinforce a significant political message: the BJP will exercise complete control over the party and its apparatuses and the patriarch RSS's interventions could become minimal, if not nominal. The Sangh-BJP equation that was in a permanent flux has settled into a constant in the Modi regime. PM Modi rules over a BJP-majority government that is not rocked by the coalition partners or an Opposition. Until he confronted his first challenge in the farmers' movement, his authority appeared incontestable. The RSS is hands-off towards the protests. Its farmers' front, the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) issued innocuous statements. The paterfamilias is in no mood to rock the boat.

The BJP took advantage of its commanding position to minimise the presence of the RSS *pracharaks* in Nadda's team and overturned an arrangement ostensibly cast in stone. BL Santhosh remains the general secretary (organisation), and there is no dilution in the power he wields as the second-most important person in the party. In the past, a general secretary, however influential, had two or more deputies 'assisting' him. This line-up of the general secretary and the joint general secretaries (organisation) under him was generally made up of



ALL SET: The Sangh-BJP equation that was in a permanent flux has settled into a constant during the Modi government's rule. PH

The BJP took advantage of its commanding position to minimise the presence of RSS *pracharaks* in Nadda's team and overturned an arrangement ostensibly cast in stone.

obscure figures who avoided the media, although Sunder Singh Bhandari and KN Govindacharya were exceptions and liberally shared information and political insights. Santhosh and Ramlal, his predecessor, had a trio under them, comprising V Satish, Saudan Singh and Shiv Prakash all of who were 'loaned' to the BJP for long-term work.

Last week, the loanees were relocated in the BJP with new designations, their mandate vastly diminished. It is unclear whether the joint general secretary's post will remain. Essentially the recast means the Sangh will have only Santhosh to deal with. He will be the sole conduit between the RSS and the BJP and for all intent and purpose both will depend largely on the feedback he gives and the inputs he shares. A quintessential *pracharak* from Karnataka, he earned the moniker, *poornavadi karyakarta* (full-time volunteer). Every *pracharak* is a full-time volunteer but the sobriquet denoted Santhosh's 'exceptional dedication'. During his stint in the Karnataka BJP, also as a general secretary, he allegedly played his share of intra-

BJP politics and was rarely on the same page as CM Yediyurappa. But he is credited with 'discovering' and nurturing young 'talent' such as Lok Sabha MPs Tejaswi Surya and Prathap Simha and the Karnataka BJP president, Nalin Kumar Kateel. The choice of protégés reveals Santhosh's unmistakable preference for those who are wedded to hard Hindutva.

In that sense, Santhosh, as also the BJP brass, sorted out the existential dilemma that dogged Vajpayee when he was the PM. Vajpayee had the RSS snapping at his heels. If the VHP got aggressive and amped up the Ram temple demand with violent consequences, on occasions, it was the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) and the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) that scuttled Vajpayee's pet reforms. He was disinclined to give the Sangh fronts unbridled latitude, and suffered as a result.

Modi has no such issues, regardless of the problems he lived with in Gujarat from the VHP and BKS. He is adept in managing their occasional tantrums. In December 2019, when the VHP threatened to besiege the govern-

ment if it would not intervene decisively to seek a 'resolution' of the Ayodhya 'dispute' and got the RSS *sarsang-hachalak*'s endorsement for the agenda, the Centre earned more than a breather when the apex court cleared the way. For Modi, it was an opportune moment to dispel the few misgivings the VHP cast over his 'commitment'. He presided over an elaborate ground-laying ceremony in Ayodhya to mark the start of the construction.

Of all RSS fronts, the VHP has the greatest potential to marshal agent provocateurs, whip up communal passions and immobilise an administration. If the outfit is given a free pass to flout the law, a government can breathe easy. This is what has happened in MP. The VHP galvanised its storm-troopers to strike terror in the minority-dominated pockets in the guise of collecting funds for the temple. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has embraced hard-core Hindutva, and giving the VHP leeway suits him politically. In UP, the temple's epicentre, the VHP does little or nothing because CM Yogi Adityanath has everything laid out: a pliant state machinery, public opinion and the voluntary militia of his Hindu Vahini in case action was demanded.

In contrast, an issue stares the BKS in the face, but it refused to react. In the Centre-farmer face-off, all that the Sangh's peasant wing asked for was guaranteeing the MSP in the open market and a designated court to adjudicate disputes related to contract farming. At no point did it suggest that the farming laws should be relooked, let alone repealed. Like the BKS, the SJM opted for the straight and narrow.

Had the RSS, the BKS and the SJM confronted the Centre on the peasantry, it would have been forced to respond and perhaps withdraw the laws. In 2015, it was an ultimatum the SJM served that nudged the government to freeze the proposed amendments in the Land Acquisition Act. The RSS astutely figured that keeping the peace with the Modi dispensation is mutually advantageous and disputes must be buried.

# At long last, a dream did come true

SIMRAN SIDHU

AFTER mom had learnt to drive a car and use a computer, I thought that she had fulfilled all her dreams. I didn't know that she had another dream — a dream she had since she was six, when her little footsteps had first trod the City Beautiful. And they longed to be back ever since. Every time she would visit the city, her dream to make it her home would strengthen its resolve.

Finally, her parents settled in the city, when granny got transferred to the city, but by then mom wasn't a six-year-old girl anymore. She was married, settled, and working in another faraway city. But she longed to be home. My every child-

hood vacation was spent at granny's place. The childhood stories I have grown up hearing from mom were mostly the ones of the time when she had partially fulfilled her dream by studying at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Almost a decade later, one day her dream was about to come true. Her elated father couldn't resist breaking this news to his daughter. He rang her up. 'The transfer file is in my hand,' he said happily, 'just the last signature is left, and then you'll be home.' The elated daughter couldn't resist breaking this news to her husband. He heard the happiest news of her life with a scorn. 'You'll see a dead me, if you go ahead with your transfer,' threatened her husband, who didn't want to follow in his

wife's footsteps. And she relented. The last signature was left unsigned. The happiest day of her life became the saddest one. Her dream remained unfulfilled. She silently waited for another chance.

Decades later, when her retirement year was close by, and her dream was still far away from being fulfilled, I said, 'You can live in Chandigarh after retirement.' Mom said, 'My dream isn't just to live there. I want to retire working there, just like my mother did.'

One day, her phone beeped. It wasn't any other routine official notification. It was 'a dream come true'. She read it with her bespectacled eyes and a wrinkled smile. It was a call for her to be transferred to the City Beautiful, her dream city. The

transfer file was back in her hand, after decades of wait. This time the last signature was also signed. And this time her husband relented to her dream. It was tough to leave behind everything and start life anew in another city, but her dream was calling her. And she had to go. After five decades, she was finally home. Ironically, she was posted at the same post, where her mother had worked before, albeit in another department.

Now, when I look at her aged feet walking on the blessed soil of the city, I see that six-year-old girl's little footsteps in them, who never stopped believing in her childhood dream. Now, I, too, believe that dreams do come true, even if sometimes time outweighs them.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Vaccine execution

Apropos of 'Vaccines are here', the approval of vaccines is surely an important step towards the containment of the Covid-19 pandemic. It will certainly be a testing time for the government and the authorities who are taking the lead in the execution and distribution of the vaccines. Proper execution and monitoring of the conditions on a regular basis are vital to make it a success.

KIRANDEEP SINGH, CHANDIGARH

#### Pendency in courts

Apropos of 'Reduce pendency', thousands of cases are lying pending in our courts. It shall be in the interest of justice, and also of administration, that we should keep prepared lists of judges in a sealed cover, prior to vacancy in posts of judge in courts. It must also be ensured that once a case comes in higher courts, it must be decided within two years.

DALIP SINGH WASAN, PATIALA

#### Political blackmail

Reference to 'Benami assets: IT official record Vadera's statement', since long many cases of allegedly illegal transactions are pending against Vadera. Though many Central agencies are probing the cases, they are unable to come to any conclusion. This is not a case of political vendet-

ta, but political blackmail. The Centre, instead of closing the case by taking action against the culprit for his alleged crime, is more interested in keeping the issue alive to draw political dividends from it.

NARESH MOHAN JOHAR, AMRITSAR

#### Talks waste of time

The ongoing farmers' protest and their talks with the government are not going to come to any conclusion, no matter how many times the talks are held. This is similar to India holding talks with China on border issues. In the farmers' case, the so-called democratic government is not going to back off while the same holds true for China.

VIKRAMJIT SINGH, AMRITSAR

#### Testing patience

Apropos 'Time for govt to resolve row over farm laws', since India is an agricultural country and the farmers are its soul, the government needs to be pragmatic and understand the gravity of the situation. The present-day regime must listen to the demands of the farming community. But it seems that the government is testing the patience of farmers, which is unacceptable and condemnable. Day by day, the government is losing trust by playing petty politics. To end this impasse, either the PM or the Home

Minister, or both, should hold a meeting with the farmers.

GURINDER SINGH, MOGA

#### Roof collapse

It is shocking that 23 people lost their lives when the roof of the shelter at a cremation ground collapsed in Muradnagar, UP. The persons responsible for this shoddy construction and supervision should be tried for murder in place of homicide. The properties of such persons should be attached and auctioned to provide relief to the families who lost their dear ones. A few months ago, the UP Government was installing roadside hoardings depicting the names and pictures of goons and rioters. Time has come to install hoardings depicting the names of corrupt contractors, officials and the district head of the department concerned. If such incidents continue, the name of the minister concerned and the CM should also appear on the board for not taking adequate stringent action.

YOGINDRA NATH JOSHI, LU DHIANA

#### Resilient Rahane

This refers to *The Sunday Tribune (Reflections)*; 'How Rahane never let India miss Kohli'; after the departure of Kohli on paternity leave, Rahane, an icy-calm strategist, took over a weakened squad, just after they'd set a

record for the worst-ever innings. And as a stand-in captain, through his outstanding performance, he managed a magnificent victory at Melbourne. After the humiliation in the first Test at Adelaide, it was a different sort of pressure Rahane encountered. Until then, he had fought bravely for his pride, but in Melbourne, he walked out to bat with the ego of Team India and a cricket nation at stake. His stand-in captaincy started with not one but two debutants in the playing 11, more experienced captains have snapped under lesser burdens. But a resilient Rahane quietly went about the task at hand, first picking up the pieces and then glueing together the shards to make a whole. This is how Rahane is, and always has been, his humility has often been celebrated but his other, more vital, trait of dealing superbly with pressure seldom has.

SK SINGH, BY MAIL

#### Rallies near CM's house

For the past few years, residents of colonies situated behind the CM's residence in Patiala have been facing the problem of traffic blockade. Every time there is a protest, the traffic is diverted, which causes inconvenience to the residents. When the CM doesn't reside in Patiala, why should protesters organise a rally in the city?

INDERPAL SINGH, PATIALA



# Be wary of China in CPC’s centenary year



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA  
COMMENTATOR AND AUTHOR

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) is the State and vice versa. The political manifesto of the CPC — typed, distributed and discussed during annual, biennial or seasonal ‘People’s Congress’ (equivalent to Parliament) sessions — is the updated, upgraded and amended ‘State Constitution’. The all-in-one CPC denotes the absence of an opposition party, rival or competitor. The word ‘opposition’ is synonymous with ‘enemy of the CPC-state’.

Thus, the General Secretary of the CPC is automatically ex officio President of the ‘CPC-state’. One-and-the-same person, necessary and complementary to each other for complete, unitary command, control and communication — an over-centralised, dictatorial model. It includes the geographical territory of the nation-state China, known as the ‘Middle Kingdom’. Unpretentiously named the CPC, in reality, it is the ostentatious ‘Middle Kingdom’. Hence, the President heads the ‘Middle Kingdom’ as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the nation-state.

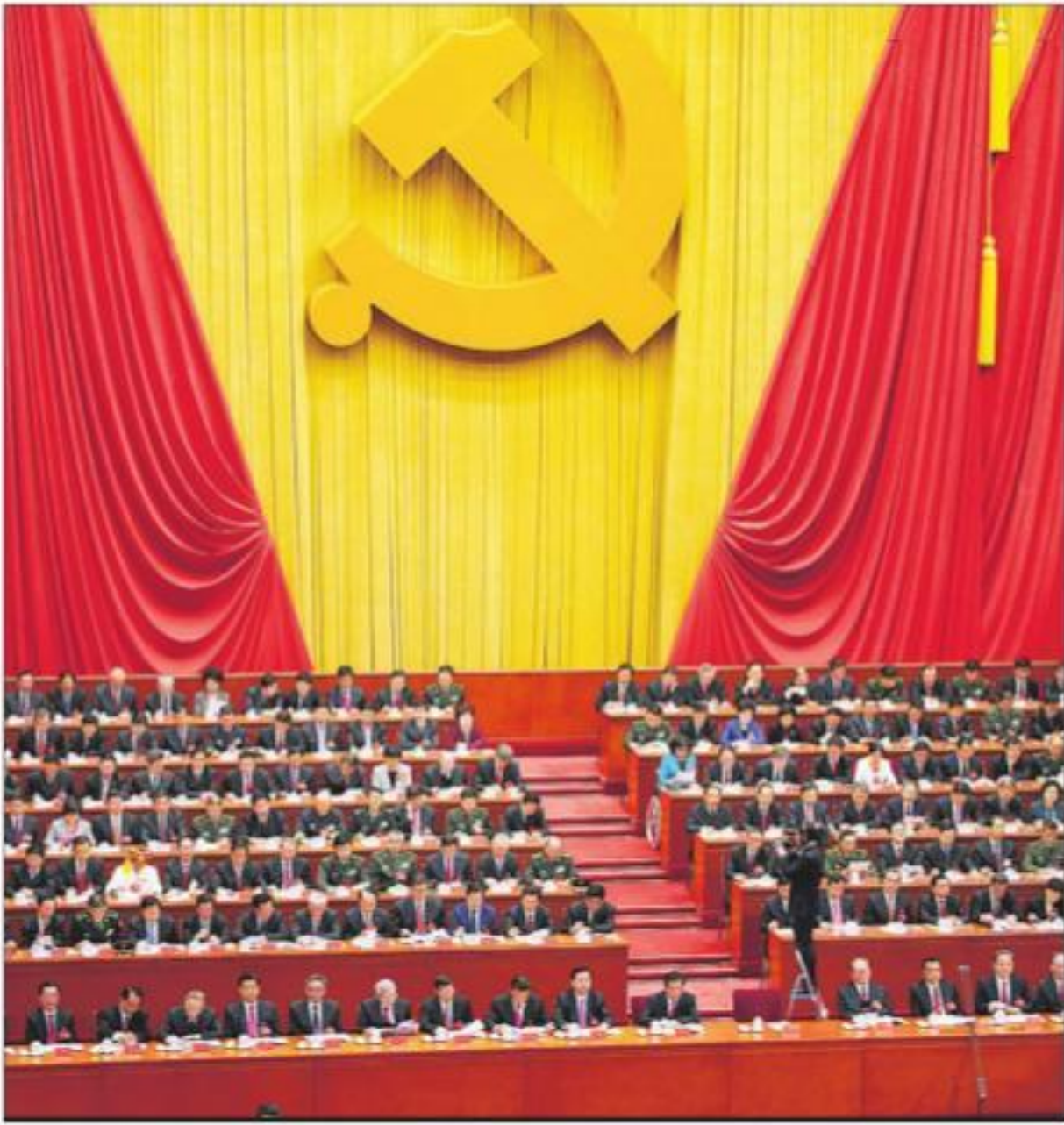
The deception is fundamental, the foundation of which was laid by the then CPC General Secretary Mao Zedong. The tradition goes on with a debilitating effect. The ‘party-state’ or the ‘state of the party’ of Han Communists under Mao (1893-1976)

and now his copybook successor, Xi Jinping, goes on consolidating individual power, “absolute to the power of infinity”, over the institution; targeting neighbouring nations to make them surrender or make themselves courtier countries to present *nazrana* before the CPC. Especially if one is small, weak and fragile; because, by now, you know that the CPC (re)draws maps, distributes money or morsel, makes machine guns, and manages affairs on land, in air and on water.

As the CPC celebrates its centenary on July 1, 2021, expect the unexpected, unprecedented, unforeseen. Brace for an impending crisis on a date, time and place of the CPC’s choosing. Forewarned is forearmed. Take note of a few key dates: May 4, the anniversary of the Shanghai movement of 1919; March 31, the great escape of the Dalai Lama from the Communist-occupied Tibet to India in 1959; June 26, the start of the Korean war in 1950 to teach the Americans a lesson; June 15, the day Xi was born in 1953. Have you forgotten June 15, 2020, the day 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the Galwan clash?

October, too, is special for the CPC. The invasion of Tibet started in October 1950. Indian policemen were killed on Indian territory on October 21, 1959. The unprovoked invasion of India through Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh took place on October 20, 1962. The foundation day of the People’s Republic of China — October 1, 1949 — is always an important occasion to flex muscles. India, therefore, should be prepared for a moderate-to-severe turbulence, leading to loss of lives, prestige, land, and major economic and commercial shocks.

Lest you forget, 2021 marks 50 years of the visit of the redoubtable Henry



The ‘party-state’ of the Communists under Mao and now his copybook successor, Xi Jinping, goes on consolidating individual power, targeting neighbouring countries to make them surrender or present themselves as courtiers before the CPC. Especially if one is small, weak and fragile. The CPC (re)draws maps, distributes money and makes machine guns. As the party celebrates its centenary on July 1, expect the unexpected & unprecedented.

**TARGET:** Nepal is high up on the CPC’s agenda for 2021. REUTERS

Kissinger, the emissary of US President Nixon, to China in 1971. It was a top-secret ‘Mission China’, undertaken to establish contact and cultivate Chairman Mao Zedong. The Nixon-Kissinger duo, on behalf of Wall Street corporations, had eyed the vast Chinese market of (the then) 900 million. The Chinese, too, were glued to the US dollar, technology, investment and finance. Planning long-term, to penetrate deep inside enemy camp. Hence, when the affluent Americans came calling to the third world economies, in Chinese eyes, however, it was obeisance to the Han court — the US kow-

towing before the ‘sons of Heaven’ in the ‘forbidden city’ of the CPC.

Today, the same US which was perceived to have had accepted the Chinese as equals in 1971, by presenting its credentials through Kissinger, appears to be “troubling the Middle Kingdom of the Yellow River”. “Cajoling, compelling, blackmailing” to stop the rise of the CPC in the world arena. What better an opportunity to settle the scores than to celebrate the CPC’s centenary, and the golden jubilee of the US visit to the Chinese court? By catching the foe on the wrong foot as the rampaging

comrade in the Himalayas. Kathmandu is one of the top 2021 items on the CPC’s plate.

However, despite Nepal being on the powerful Chinese political radar, India continues to be the biggest worry for China, owing to the ethnic commonality and historical fraternity transcending barriers. Plus, the Indian states adjacent to the open border of the two neighbours are intertwined since time immemorial, with or without politics. Astounding civilisational commonality overshadows all godly or man-made faultlines.

So, as the influence of the CPC over the Nepalese counterpart faced serious domestic issues, the Chinese were compelled to mobilise their heavy-weight Communist comrades to camp in Kathmandu to do every possible thing to hold sway, and keep India at bay. The CPC has long been hyperactive in South Asia. After the Pakistan-penetrating CPEC project, the Ladakh transgression and the Galwan clash, the Myanmar-Bangladesh investment in defence supplies and futile venture in Bhutan (till now), Nepal just cannot be allowed to go out of the CPC’s clutches — under no circumstances in the CPC’s centenary year.

The perceived ‘Hindu Nepal’, adjacent to the Indian heartland, cannot be allowed to go away or change its political colour. It’s because, except Nepal, the CPC has no ideological base or commonality in any of the states from Indonesia to Iraq. Hence, the CPC under Xi can never be seen to be accepting defeat, weakening or breakup of the Nepal Communist Party, cruising under the perceived guidance and control of Beijing.

Friends and foes, fasten your seat belts in the CPC’s centenary year. Severe turbulence lies ahead.

# Demographic paranoia dictates ‘love jihad’ laws



LUV PURI  
JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

In 2004, the J&K Legislative Assembly passed a Bill to deprive women married outside the erstwhile state of retaining the Permanent Resident Certificate. Without being explicit, the main fear was the possible demographic change to the Muslim-majority character of J&K as the perception was that the bulk of the marriages outside were of non-Muslim women.

THE passage of legislation in some states to apparently protect women belonging to the majority community, also known as laws to prevent ‘love jihad’, has evoked concerns regarding the assault on individual constitutional rights and privacy, particularly the impact on women. The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet had cleared the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, whereas on December 29, the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved the Freedom of Religion Bill, 2020, as an ordinance.

These developments fit into the regional pattern of attempts in an environment of paranoia about demographic change and patriarchy.

In Buddhist-majority Myanmar, the parliament adopted four laws in 2015 — the Monogamy Law, Religious Conversion Law and Interfaith Marriage Law, and Population Control Law. In 2012, a case of sexual violence and murder of a Rakhine Buddhist woman sparked communal violence in Sitwe, central Rakhine, that led to an internal displacement of both communities, including 1,20,000 Rohingya. Islamophobia swept Myanmar consequently.

Taking advantage of the religious polarisation, a group of monks formed the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion. They drafted and proposed to the parliament a Bill to protect the Buddhist women who married non-Buddhist men so that they have equal rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance and chil-



**WORRYING:** The ‘love jihad’ laws are an assault on a person’s rights & privacy. PTI

dren as well as have effective protection. With some tweaks, the Myanmar Buddhist Women’s Special Marriage Bill was introduced by the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party in the parliament. The Buddhist Women’s Special Marriage and Succession Act, 1954 was revoked on the passage of this Bill. Under the 1954 law, when a Buddhist woman married a non-Buddhist man, all rights and disputes regarding the marriage were governed by the Burmese customary law, which also governs Buddhist marriages.

The 2015 Conversion Law and Interfaith Marriage Law was passed by a vote of 524 to 44, with eight abstentions, by the two Houses of Parliament sitting in a joint session. The rationale given was similar to that of the Special Marriage

Act, 1954, which was meant to protect women of the religious majority. As per the Bill, “whenever a non-Buddhist man and a Buddhist woman intend to contract a marriage, one of them shall apply in writing in the prescribed form to the Registrar within the jurisdiction where one of them is residing.” The law allowed local registrars to publicly post marriage applications for 14 days to determine whether there are any objections to the unions.

The law was called out for promoting patriarchy and invading privacy as it exposed the potential couple to harassment. The present ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who had married a British, opposed the legislation as an opposition leader. However, her party after taking over the reign of govern-

ment in March 2016, didn’t revoke the legislation. Suu Kyi was herself married to a British and was denied the presidency. This was owing to a constitutional provision which says that the president must be someone who “he himself, one of the parents, the spouse, one of the legitimate children or their spouses not owe allegiance to a foreign power, not be subject of a foreign power or citizen of a foreign country.”

Similar underlying fears of demographic change have dictated past legislative processes. In 2004, the J&K Legislative Assembly passed a Bill to deprive women married outside the erstwhile state of retaining the Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC). A critical aspect of Article 370 was the provision of PRC given to people whose ancestors had lived in J&K for at least 10 years before May 14, 1954. Before August 5, 2019, only those with PRC could buy property, get employment in the state, vote in the J&K Legislative Assembly and were entitled to other privileges. That is why legislation was passed to disincentivise women from marrying outside.

Without being explicit, the main fear was the possible demographic change to the Muslim-majority character of J&K as the perception was that the bulk of the marriages outside were of non-Muslim women. And this would imply that the retention of PRC by non-Muslim women would result in claims of their children as well.

The Bill was meant to give a legislative form by the People’s Democratic

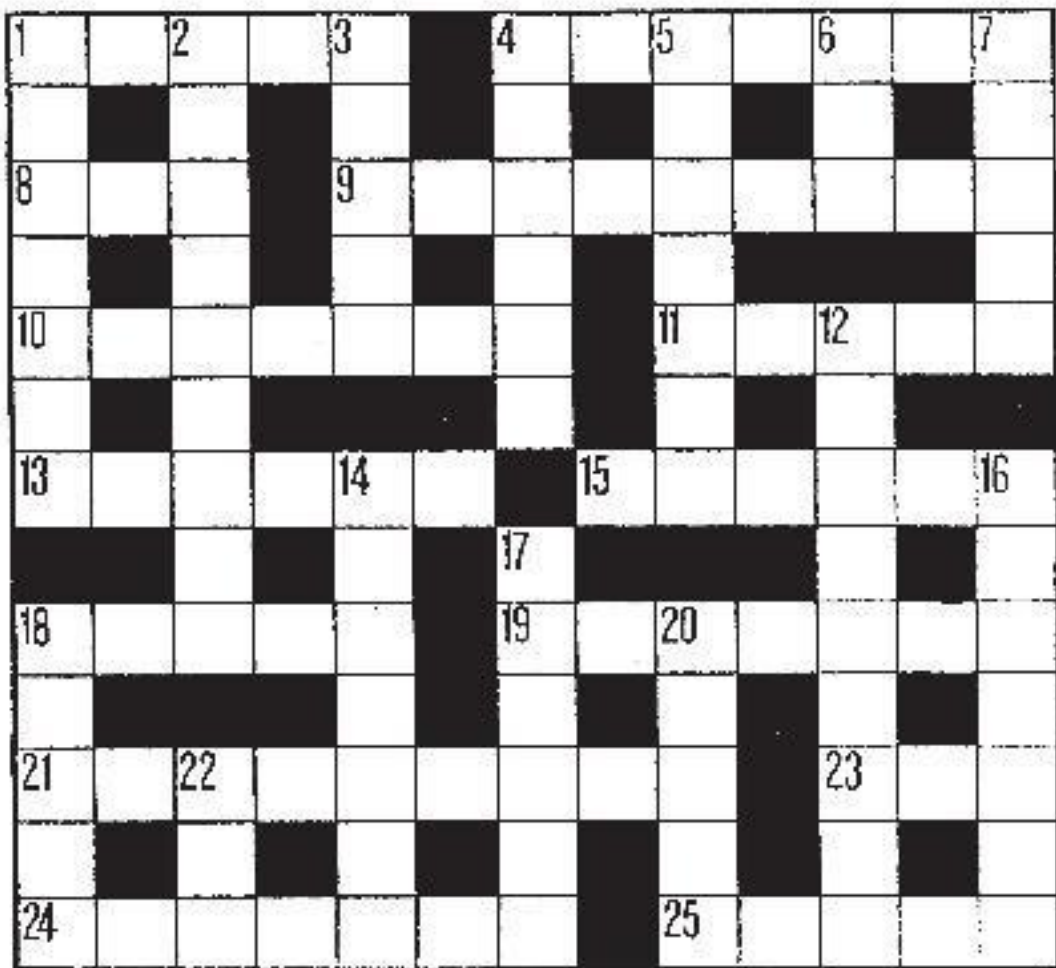
Party (PDP)-Congress ruling coalition to the 1968 executive order which was struck down by the J&K High Court on October 7, 2002. The court had held that no legislation can be made which is against gender equality.

After an uproar among women’s rights groups and criticism by opposition parties like the BJP, the Congress realised that the legislation could become a national embarrassment as it will be accused of being a partner in facilitating gender inequality. The Congress legislators in the council were asked to oppose the Bill and demand that the Bill be sent to a select committee of the J&K Legislative Council.

The council met on March 11, 2004. The Congress and BJP opposed the Bill, whereas regional parties like the National Conference and the PDP supported its passage. The six-and-a-half-hour proceedings were nationally televised. After several passionate speeches by the legislators, both for and against the Bill, council Chairman Abdul Rashid Dar, in a surprise move, adjourned the council sine die.

Coming to the present debate, in India’s case, inter-religious marriage can be solemnised through the Special Marriage Act, 1954. The so-called ‘love jihad’ legislations in various states invade privacy, and, rather than reform and make it more in conformity with the democratic and liberal ethos of the 21st century, the provisions are further reinforcing patriarchy and the same paranoia of demographic change that is not too uncommon regionally.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Close shave, 8 Aside, 9 Villain, 10 Launder, 11 Grebe, 12 Needle, 14 Toss-up, 17 Lunar, 19 Stammer, 21 Supreme, 22 Doty, 23 Lose no time.  
**Down:** 2 Leisure, 3 Speed, 4 Severe, 5 Allegro, 6 Erase, 7 In jeopardy, 8 At long last, 13 Largess, 15 Symptom, 16 Astern, 18 Nepal, 20 Audit.

## SU DO KU

4	9		2		6		8
			7				
				6		2	3
	6	4	3	9	2		
2	4			7			
				3			
7		8		1	3		5

EASY

## CALENDAR

JANUARY 6, 2021, WEDNESDAY	
■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Posh Shaka	16
■ Posh Parvishite	23
■ Hijari	1442
■ Krishan Paksha Tithi 8, up to 2:07 am	
■ Ati Yoga up to 12.12 am	
■ Hast Nakshatra up to 5:09 p.m.	
■ Moon enters Libra sign 4:29 am	

### YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

3	8	4	7	2	1	9	6	5
9	7	2	8	6	5	1	3	4
6	1	5	4	3	9	8	7	2
7	4	1	6	9	8	2	5	3
5	9	6	3	1	2	7	4	8
8	2	3	5	4	7	6	9	1
2	6	7	1	5	3	4	8	9
1	3	8	9	7	4	5	2	6
4	5	9	2	8	6	3	1	7

## FORECAST

**SUNSET:** WEDNESDAY 17:36 HRS  
**SUNRISE:** THURSDAY 07:21 HRS



CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	22	14
New Delhi	20	12
Amritsar	16	12
Bathinda	18	12
Jalandhar	15	12
Ludhiana	22	11
Bhiwani	21	07
Hisar	20	13
Sirsa	18	13
Dharamsala	12	05
Manali	08	-01
Shimla	12	-01
Srinagar	05	-02
Jammu	21	10
Kargil	-01	-09
Leh	-04	-16
Dehradun	22	12
Mussoorie	12	07

TEMPERATURE IN °C



**ਕੋਰੀਜ਼ਡਮ**

ਇਸ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਨੰ. 15 (2020) ਮਿਤੀ 28.12.2020 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਅਲਬਾਰਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮੰਗੇ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਤ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਸੋਧ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ ਨਾਲ (ਕੇਵਲ ਪੁਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਇਨਲਿਸਟਮੈਂਟ ਅਧੀਨ) ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਯੋਗ ਨੋਕੋਰਾਰ/ਫਰਮਾਂ/ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਹੀ ਵਿਚਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ।

**ਸਹੀ/-ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ, (ਸ),**  
**ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ।**

DI-17523

**PUSHPA GUJRAL SCIENCE CITY**

Jalandhar-Kapurthala Road, Kapurthala. Telephone: 01822 501963 / 64

**TENDER NOTICE**

Online tenders are invited from reputed Agencies/ Firms /Companies for Running of Facilities- Boating & Water Sports, Trackless Toy Train, Rail Track Toy Train and Souvenir Shop at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Jalandhar-Kapurthala Road, Kapurthala.

Interested tenderers can submit online bids through <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> by **27.01.2021** (1500 Hrs). For further details, please visit website [www.pgsciencecity.org](http://www.pgsciencecity.org)

**Note:-**PGSC reserves the right to accept or reject any application and to annul the process at any time, without any liability and assigning any reason thereof.

**DIRECTOR STATE TRANSPORT, PUNJAB-CUM-PUNJAB STATE BUS STAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED CHANDIGARH**  
(CIN: U74999CH1995SGC015974)  
(Provisional ID GST No. 04AADCP0762GIZR, PAN No. AADCP0762G)  
No. 23/Purchase/PA-2 Dated: 04.01.2021

**E-tender for supply of Tyres, Tubes & Flaps size (Size 7.50-16x16PR Nylon)**

Online e-tender is invited in two bid system (Technical & Commercial bid) from the firm till 27.01.2021. For details visit website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be published online on the above mentioned website only.

**Sd/- Managing Director, Punbus.**

DPR/Pb/420

**Government of Punjab**

Tender Reference No :- **NIT No. 06/E-Tender/2020-21**

The Department of :- **Improvement Trust Amritsar.**

Invites online Bids for :- **Total Works (27 Nos)**

Closing Date & Time :- **26-01-2021 & 15:00**

For detail log onto :- **[www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)**

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice Shall be published on above website only.

**-Sd-  
Chairman,  
Amritsar Improvement Trust,  
Amritsar.**

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION  
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

Tender Notice No. 17

Date: 05.01.2021

Executive Engineer (Water Quality), Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Phase 2, SAS Nagar, Punjab invites quotations from eligible bidders for the supply of Glassware for Multi District Water Testing Lab Moga, Multi District Water Testing Lab Hoshiarpur, Multi District Water Testing Lab Sangrur under World Bank Project (Procurement No. PRWSS-G-SPMC-7263-1) as mentioned in the RFQ document.

For detailed list of glassware, terms and conditions of the Request for Quotations, refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> & [www.dwss.punjab.gov.in](http://www.dwss.punjab.gov.in) w.e.f. 07.01.2021.

Important dates are given below:-

1.	<b>Date of Commencement of Sale of RFQ Document</b>	07.01.2021
2.	<b>Video conference of Prospective Bidders</b>	14.01.2021 (11:00 A.M.)
3.	<b>Last Date for Sale of RFQ Document</b>	28.01.2021
4.	<b>Last Date &amp; Time for Submission of Quotations</b>	29.01.2021 (11:00 A.M.)
5.	<b>Time &amp; Date of Opening of Quotations - Technical Part</b>	29.01.2021 (02:00 p.m.)

Pre-bid meeting of prospective bidders will be held through video conference as per link given in the RFQ on the scheduled date & time. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on websites only.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (WQ),  
DWSS, Punjab,  
Phase-2, Water Works Complex,  
S.A.S. Nagar — 160055.  
Tel No. 0172-4330342**

DPR/Pb/465

**E-TENDERING NO. 10 OF 2020-21**

<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur invites bids from eligible bidders for the work detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. Value of the Work
1.	DNIT for New Proposed Tubewell of Size 300mm x 200mm and 150mtr depth with direct Rotary Rig against Abandon/Failed Tubewell & Construction of Pump Chamber, Providing and laying, jointing, cutting, testing of Rising Main DI-K7 200mm i/d Tubewell to Connecting for Existing water supply pipe line at M.C. Colony Dina Nagar Town Distt. Gurdaspur.(HUDDO SCHEME)	@ 2% of DNIT cost Rs. 57400/-	Rs. 100/- + As applicable on website	3 Months	Rs. 28.69 Lac
2.	DNIT for New Proposed Tubewell of Size 300mm x 200 mm and 150 mtr Depth with Direct Rotary Rig against Abandon/Failed Tubewell & Construction of Pump Chamber, Providing and Laying, Jointing, Cutting, Testing of Rising main DI-K7 = 200mm i/d Tubewell to Connection for Existing Water Supply Pipe Line at Indra Colony Dina Nagar Town Distt Gurdaspur. (Deposit Work)	@ 2% of DNIT cost Rs. 77100/-	Rs. 100/- + As applicable on website	3 Months	Rs. 38.52 Lac
3.	DNIT for New Proposed Two Tubewell against Abandon Tubewells & Construction of Pump Chamber for Providing and Laying, Jointing, Cutting, Testing of DI-K7 200mm i/d pipe line at Tampu Stand Near Sewa Kender, Near Ravidas Mandir Chowk Sujjanpur Town Distt. Pathankot. (Deposit work)	@ 2% of DNIT cost Rs. 132550/-	Rs. 100/- + As applicable on website	3 Months	Rs. 66.27 Lac

**Important dates are as under:**  
Period of availability of tender online shall be : 11.01.2021 from 5.00 p.m.  
Last date and time for online submission of bid shall be : 01.02.2021 up to 5.00 p.m.  
Date and time of opening of Technical Bid : 02.02.2021 at 3.00 p.m.  
**Note:-** i) The detailed terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.  
ii) Corrigendum/addendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Punjab W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur.**

DPR/Pb/466

# Crackdown on polluting units, 4 Baddi textile factories shut

Face penalty worth ₹1.86 crore; treatment plant rendered defunct

AMBIKA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JANUARY 5  
In a major crackdown on polluting industries, four textile units in the Baddi industrial area have been directed to close operations of their dyeing processes as their effluents have rendered the common effluent treatment plant (CETP) defunct. An environmental compensation worth Rs 1.86 crore has also been imposed on them for violating the provisions of the Water Act, 1974, and Environmental Protection Act, 1981 by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).

The board noted that the four units — Winsome Textiles, Auro Textiles, Auro Dyeing and Auro Textile-II — were neither complying with the prescribed discharge standards nor notified inlet quality standards and caused water pollution in its orders dated January 1, a copy of which was available with The Tribune. Board officials were

**GENERATING CATEGORY-IV EFFLUENTS**

- An NGT inspection committee had observed that these textile units engaged in dyeing processes generate category-IV effluents comprising concentrated dyes.
- The pipeline carrying these effluents was found non-functional and choked as they carried concentrated effluents from these units. Not only this, a major portion of this effluent got mixed with category 1 effluent and could not be treated appropriately.

not available for comments despite several calls.

A joint inspection committee of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had observed in November 2019 that these textile units engaged in dyeing processes generate category-IV effluents comprising concentrated dyes. The pipeline carrying these effluents was found non-functional and choked as they carried concentrated effluents from these units. Not only this, a major portion of this effluent got mixed with category 1 effluent and could not be treated appropriately.

The CETP was not found fit for treatment of fixed dis-

solved solids (FDS) measuring around 22,000 mg/litre being received from these textile units. This was causing considerable pollution to the Balad river as all treated effluents are finally discharged into it by the CETP. The NGT had expressed concern over pollution in Balad river in Baddi and had directed the SPCB to close polluting activities and recover environmental compensation from the polluter in June 2020 after receipt of this report.

The state board had issued show cause notices to these units in June 2020 and had asked them why their power

# Death toll of birds rises to 2,700

The dead birds in the Pong wetland area. TRIBUNE PHOTO

RAJIV MAHAJAN

NURPUR, JANUARY 5  
The number of migratory birds dying of avian flu (H5N1) in the Pong wetland area rose to 2,700 up to Tuesday evening, making state government authorities more concerned. While migratory birds of 15 species have died due to the outbreak of fatal avian flu, the number of most of those dead is of Bar-headed goose coming from Mongolia and China.

A team of scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, headed by Dr Suresh arrived in the wildlife sanctuary today to take stock of the situation. The team visited the affected Pong wetland area and examined the dead birds. As per official information, the team will submit a detailed report to the Union Government within the next two days.

Meanwhile, the vendors of poultry products and mutton closed their shops in Fatehpur, Jawali, Indora and Dehra subdivisions in Kangra district following the orders of the district administration. Panic prevailed among people living around the Pong wetland after the death toll of the birds rose.

Rahul M Rahane, DFO (Wildlife), Hamirpur, told *The Tribune* that following the directions of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh, all recommended measures were being complied with for the prevention of the spread of avian influenza.

“The expert opinion of the Veterinary Officer, Wildlife, is being taken for the preliminary understanding of the disease and requisite protective measures are also being taken while dealing with the dead birds,” he said.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders ([www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect/T-22/2020-21	Escorting and on board operation of power cars of Greaves Cotton make DG sets for one year over Firpozpur Division.	1,39,79,717.40/-	2,19,900/-	12 Months	27.01.2021 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a>
251-Elect/T-23/2020-21	Annual maintenance Contract (AMC) of 10 KVA inverter of Hi-Rel make fitted in RA-0102 and RA-600 at Firpozpur division.	1,89,147.60/-	3,800/-	36 Months	27.01.2021 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a>

251-Elect/T-Notice No. 28-Elect/2020-21 Dated : 04.01.2021

2221

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

supply should not be disconnected and an interim environmental compensation may not be imposed on them as per the laid norms. The textile units were directed to chalk out action plans and install their own treatment system to treat these effluents and follow inlet and treatment quality standards.

This order was challenged by the textile units in the high court which while disposing their petitions had directed the state government to take appropriate directions as per law against the polluting units while observing that no industry can be allowed to pollute water bodies.

Three textile units have been levied environmental compensation for 160 days from July 25, 2020 to December 31, 2020 while Auro Textile has been levied it for 140 days. Regional officer of the SPCB has also been directed to ensure compliance within seven days by the member secretary, SPCB.

# Covid tally nears 56,000

SHIMLA, JANUARY 5  
With 122 new cases being reported today, the tally of Covid cases in Himachal Pradesh reached 55,910, besides four deaths in the past 24 hours. The highest number of 29 cases were reported in Kangra, 17 in Shimla, 14 each in Solan and Chamba, 12 in Mandi, four each in Simla and Una, three in Kullu, two each in Bilaspur and Hamirpur and one in Kinnaur. — TNS

STATE TRACKER		
Recovered	53,487	
Active cases	1,437	
<b>Positive cases</b>	<b>55,910</b>	
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>938</b>	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	-VE	DEATHS
Una	2,778	38
Solan	6,526	69
Kangra	7,879	191
Chamba	2,887	50
Hamirpur	2,873	47
Simla	3,213	29
Mandi	9,759	120
Bilaspur	2,879	24
Shimla	10,165	260
Kullu	4,376	82
Kinnaur	1,328	16
Total	55,910	938

# Shanta, kin may be discharged tomorrow

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, JANUARY 5  
Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shanta Kumar and his family members, who had been admitted to the Fortis Hospital in Mohali for

# Are admitted in a Mohali hospital

treatment for Covid-19, are likely to be discharged on Thursday evening.

A spokesman for the hospital said Shanta Kumar and his family members were doing fine and could be discharged on Thursday evening or Friday morning. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been calling regularly to enquire after his health.

Shanta Kumar's wife Santosh Shailja had died due to complications related to the coronavirus in the early hours on December 29. A day after, the 86-year-old leader and his son Vikram Sharma were admitted to the Fortis Hospital on December 30 as a precautionary measure.

# Snow, rain intensify cold wave

322 roads closed; Met predicts heavy snow in tribal areas

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Heavy snowfall at Sissu in Lahaul-Spiti on Tuesday. JAI KUMAR

SHIMLA, JANUARY 5  
Normal life was badly hit in many parts of Himachal as tribal areas and higher hills had another spell of fresh snowfall while icy wings accompanied by rains lashed lower and mid hills, causing sharp fall in day temperature.

As many as 322 roads were closed due to fresh snowfall. The maximum 177 roads were closed in Lahaul and Spiti district, 83 were blocked in Shimla and 48 in Kinnaur. Power supply was affected and 110 transformers developed snags following snowfall.

Kalpa and Keylong in tribal areas received 58 cm and 18 cm of snow followed by Khadralla 15 cm, Moorang 12 cm, Kufri, Sumdo and Pooh 10 cm each and Moorang and Shillaru 8 cm each.

Widespread rains lashed the region. Dalhousie was wettest with 30 mm rains, followed by Manali 15 mm, Wangtoo 14 mm, Salooni and Jogindernagar 14 mm each, Theog 12 mm, Jubbal 11 mm, Solan, Shimla and Chamba 10 mm each and Baijnath and Reckong Peo 9 mm each.

The local MeT office has warned of heavy snowfall at isolated places in tribal Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts tomorrow,

resulting in disruption in electricity and water supply and road blockades.

There is likelihood of thunderstorms, lightning and hailstorm at isolated places in Una and Bilaspur districts, heavy rains and snowfall at isolated places in Chamba, Kangra and Kullu districts and light to moderate snowfall in higher reaches in Shimla and Mandi districts tomorrow as a fresh Western Disturbance lies over the region, the MeT office said.

Shimla and surrounding region were lashed by icy winds accompanied by rains and snow as day temperatures dropped by a few notches. Keylong recorded the maximum temperature at 0.4 degree while Kalpa shivered at 1.8 degree, followed by Kufri 4.3 degree, Shimla 8.5 degree, Manali 8.8 degree, Solan 12 degree and Una 19 degree.

# Tourists stranded on Manali NH

MANDI, JANUARY 5  
A large numbers of tourist vehicles were today stranded between Solang valley and Manali because of heavy snowfall in the region. It is expected that over 500 vehicles have been stranded in the area.

The district administration, Kullu, had issued an advisory two days ago urging tourists to avoid venturing into high-altitude areas as the Met Department had predicted snow and rain in various parts of the state.

Despite inclement weather in the region, a large number of tourists thronged Solang valley to enjoy the snow. Gaurav Singh, SP Kullu, said police personnel were on job to rescue stranded tourists. — TNS

# After slip in ranking, HPU takes steps to fix lapses

BHANU P LOHUMI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JANUARY 5  
Taking serious note of the slip in its ranking under the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) last year due to the gap in uploading information online and underperformance of some departments, the Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) has decided to tighten the noose around non-performing faculty by making them accountable.

Attributing the slip in the ranking from 164 to 169 in 2020 to the shortcoming in uploading data on portal between 2015-2018, Vice-Chancellor Prof Sikander Kumar said the university had taken effective steps to correct the lapses and 90 per cent of the shortcomings had been removed.

“Remedial steps were initi-

ated in June and July 2020 and drawbacks were discussed in the meeting held in October. To start with, about 150 teachers of social sciences and correspondence courses which were in grey area were asked to submit faculty reports. Other departments will follow suit,” Kumar told The Tribune.

The internal quality assessment cell is perusing the reports of all departments — which includes research projects, students guided, classes taken during semester/year, seminars, conference, workshop, guest lectures, memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed, fellowships, awards and placements. To facilitate campus placement, the university is tying up with industries and other employment providers.

In order to cut short delays for sanction of funds for vari-

ous activities, Rs 50 lakh (one lakh for each department) has been sanctioned in advance and it has been made mandatory for each teacher to publish at least three research papers, the VC said, adding that four new courses, including Defense Studies, Environmental Sciences, Library Science and M.Sc Microbiology were also introduced.

The ranking is based on parameters such as the quality of the institute, students, faculty, teaching learning practices and resources, research and innovation culture of the institute, professional practices, placement and other graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity, industrial tie-ups, international collaborations and the perception of the institute in the academic and professional world.

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**

**TENDER NOTICE**

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ICU/HDU BUILDING IN CAMPUS OF DANVEER KARAN RAJKIYA HOSPITAL KARNAL (PROVIDING MGP AND ALLIED ITEMS ONLY).	04.01.2021 19.01.2021	184.21 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01842265696 pwd-eeed-karnal@hry.nic.in
2	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, REWARI	REPAIRING OF DAMAGED PATCHES OF PRANPURA DISTY. FROM KM. 0.000 TO 3.976 + 15 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 14.01.2021	36 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9354260552 xenws2nrl@gmail.com
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, REWARI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 1 NO. 150 CS PUMP (P-5) AT PUMP HOUSE JC-1 + 7 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 22.01.2021	EMD 1.77 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01274256466 xenmech@yahoo.com
4	FOREST DEPARTMENT HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH MOUND AT VILLAGE KAJALHERI DISTT. FATEHABAD	04.01.2021 18.01.2021	3 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01662259233 dwlohisar@gmail.com
5	DISTRICT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY BHUJWANI	E-TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF COMPUTERS SYSTEMS AND PRINTERS	04.01.2021 25.01.2021	20 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01664-241341 ditsbhw@gmail.com
6	CIVIL SURGEON HISAR	HIRING OF E-RICKSHAW WITH MIKING SYSTEM FOR URBAN HISAR & URBAN HANSI UNDER NATIONAL URBAN HEALTH MISSION HARYANA	05.01.2021 15.01.2021	EMD 10000	<a href="http://www.nrhmharyana.gov.in">www.nrhmharyana.gov.in</a>	9034259320 dhs.cshsr@hry.nic.in
7	BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK ISMAILABAD	SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGE OF BLOCKS ISMAILABAD IN DISTT KURUKSHETRA	05.01.2021 21.01.2021		<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9813320006 bdpo.ismailabad@nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KAITHAL	LAYING OF DRY STONE PITCHING OF KOTIKUT TIRTH AT VILLAGE KEORAK BLOCK- KAITHAL	06.01.2021 12.01.2021	129.06 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	94161-91639 prexeeng.ktl@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenderhry.nic.in](http://www.etenderhry.nic.in)

eprocurementindia.com



# 7 cops awarded for gathering intel inputs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced special medals for gathering intelligence inputs (Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak-2020) to seven officials of the Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Police.

Announcing this, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written to the awardee officers and extended his heartiest compliments and best wishes to them.

Recently the MHA had instituted the medal to recognise police officials for their extraordinary contribution in gathering-intelligence inputs.

The officers, who have been awarded the medals, include Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajouri Chandan Kohli, SP (operations) Srinagar Tahir Ashraf, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Budgam Amit Verma, Subdivisional Police Officer (SDPO) Akhnoor Ajay Sharma,

Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak-2020

Inspector Dilraj Singh, Inspector Syed Parveez Sajad and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Farooq Ahmad Mantoo. “DGP Dilbag Singh has expressed gratitude to the MHA. He said such recognitions boost the morale of the UT’s police officers, officials and play a significant role in encouraging the force to work with more dedication and devotion,” the J&K Police said in a Twitter post.

Meanwhile, it is reported that Singh had recently announced DGP medals and certificates for 551 police personnel/SPOs, 52Army/BSF/CRPF/ITBP/SB officers, personnel, 4 civilian and 22 civil officers/officials for meritorious and exemplary performance in public service during 2020.

# Amid snowfall, admn orders rationing of essentials in Valley

Srinagar-Jammu highway remains closed for third consecutive day

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 5

Heavy snowfall on Tuesday snapped air and surface link with the Kashmir Valley from the rest of country forcing authorities to order rationing of essentials commodities to evade any crisis in supply.

The Srinagar-Jammu Highway remained closed for the third consecutive day. The nearly 300-km long highway is the lifeline of supplies for the landlocked Valley. Each time, the highway gets blocked, hoarders and profiteers resort to selling essentials on the black market. The authorities on Tuesday announced rationing of petroleum products and cooking gas.

An order issued by PK Pole, Kashmir Divisional Commissioner said two-wheelers would get 3 litres of fuel, three-wheelers (private) 10 litres, four-wheelers (commercial) 20 litres and heavy motor vehi-



People commute during snowfall in Srinagar on Tuesday. REUTERS

## FLIGHTS GROUNDED

Srinagar: Flight operations to and from Srinagar remained suspended for the third consecutive day on Tuesday due to poor visibility as the Valley received heavy snowfall, officials said. Operations will resume only after the weather improves, they said. PTI

cles/buses/trucks would get 20 litres per day. It has been ordered that one cooking gas

## OVER 250 STRANDED VEHICLES CLEARED

Banihal/Jammu: Over 250 stranded vehicles on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway, mostly carrying passengers, were cleared after the arterial road was briefly opened for one-way traffic between Banihal and Qazigund, officials said. PTI

cylinder will be issued to the consumer after 21 days. Heavy snowfall has also disrupted

## CAP ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

- 2-wheelers to get 3 litres of fuel
- 3-wheelers: 5 litres
- 4-wheelers (pvt): 10 litres
- 4-wheelers (commercial): 20 litres
- Heavy motor vehicles, buses and trucks to get 20 litres per day

## AVALANCHE WARNING

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority on Tuesday issued fresh medium-level avalanche warning for higher reaches of Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Anantnag, Kulgam, Kupwara and Bandipora districts besides Waltengru Nad, South and North portals of Jawahar Tunnel, Verinag, Kapran, Chowkibal-NC Pass, Gurez, Dwar and Neeru areas. IANS

# Vaccine rollout by January 13

FROM PAGE 1

In a major announcement today, the government also said India was open to exports of the newly approved vaccines – Serum Institute’s Covishield and Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin.

“Vaccines are global public goods and the government has not initiated any ban on exports,” said Rajesh Bhushan as the SII and Bharat Biotech jointly communicated their pledge for a smooth rollout of vaccines to India and the world.

“Vaccines have the power to save lives and accelerate the return of economic normalcy at the earliest. Now that two Covid vaccines have been issued the EUA in India, the focus is on manufacturing, supply and distribution, such that populations that need it the most receive high quality, safe and efficacious vaccines. Both our companies are fully engaged in this activity and consider it our duty to the nation and the world at large to ensure a smooth rollout of vaccines,” SII chief Adar Poonawala and Biotech chairman Krishna Ella said, adding that they were

## 71 UK RETURNEES HAVE MUTANT VIRUS

New Delhi: India on Tuesday saw the lowest daily cases in more than six months even as the government said 71 UK returnees have been detected with the mutant virus. There were 16,375 new cases in the past 24 hours – the lowest in over six months – as the caseload mounted to 1,03,56,844.

fully aware of the importance of vaccines for people and countries alike.

The no-export-ban development comes when India is prioritising vaccine delivery to 30 crore most vulnerable people at home.

“The Covid vaccination is at present a public health priority and the target is to vaccinate the most vulnerable and prevent deaths. We will come to individual issues of supplies later,” VK Paul, chairman, COVID vaccine task force, said today when asked when the vaccines will be available in the open market for people to buy.

# Alert sounded in J&K over bird flu

JAMMU, JANUARY 5

As neighbouring Himachal Pradesh reported cases of bird flu, Jammu and Kashmir has sounded an alert and started collecting samples to check the health of the winged guests flocking the Union territory during winters, officials said.

The joint teams of Animal Husbandry and Wildlife Departments on Tuesday visited Gharana wetland in the



outskirts of Jammu and collected 25 bird droppings for testing to ascertain whether any of the birds was infected with the dreaded avian influenza, the officials said.

Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Anil Atri said.

Atri, who along with Dr Ranjit Katoch of the Wildlife Department joined the Animal Husbandry team at Gharana wetland, said all the birds present in the wetland looked healthy.

The Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve in the RS Pura sector near the International Border was notified in 1981. — PTI

“The J&K Government has sounded an alert following reports of bird flu cases in Himachal Pradesh and issued certain guidelines as a precautionary measure,”

# NC panel meets L-G, alleges horse-trading of DDC members

JAMMU, JANUARY 5

An eight-member National Conference delegation on Tuesday met Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha here and drew his attention to alleged attempts being made to mutilate the mandate of the people by encouraging horse-trading of the recently elected DDC members, the party said.

The NC stressed the cru-

cial need of ensuring neutrality and impartiality of the administration in establishment of the District Development Councils and said this was imperative for respecting the mandate and upholding people’s faith in the grass-roots level democratic institutions which held the promise for transforming rural landscape in Jammu and Kashmir. — PTI

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that one unknown male person age about 45 yrs, Height 5-5", dark complexion, thin body, inner part of body rotten, wearing brown shirt & grey colour pant, was admitted to Govt. Medical College and Hospital, Sector-32, Chandigarh vide CR No. 210100605 dated 03.01.2021, where duty doctor declared him brought dead. The address & legal heirs of deceased are not known. In this regard, a DOR No. 24, dated 03.01.2021 has been lodged in Police Station Sector 34, Chandigarh. The Photograph of deceased is given above.

If anyone having any information/clue about the whereabouts of above said person, please inform to SHO, Police Station Sector-34, Chandigarh on Phone No. 9779580934, 0172-2676034, 2662897 or Police Control Phone No. 0172-2749194 or 112.

Chandigarh Police

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB**  
**TENDER NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB INVITES ONLINE BID FOR THE FOLLOWING 2 NO. WORKS.

1. Construction of One No. RCC OHSR 50000 ltrs. capacity having height 17 mtr up to FSL for W/S Scheme Village Behra, Block Derabassi, District SAS Nagar Under NABARD RIDF XXIII (Package-2).
2. Construction of One No. RCC OHSR 75000 ltrs. capacity having height 22 mtr. up to FSL for W/S Scheme Village Balfon Majra, BLOCK Kharar, District SAS Nagar Under NABARD RIDF XXIII (Package-2).

**Closing Date and Time: 18.01.2021**  
For details login to: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
**Note** : Any corrigendum to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
W/S & Sanitation Division No. 3,  
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar.

DPR/Pb/425

**ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ**  
**Email- eompsardulgarh2012@gmail.com**  
**ਮਿਤੀ: 1.1.2021**  
**(ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ)**

ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਏਜੰਸੀਆਂ, ਟੈਂਡਰਦਾਰਾਂ, ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀਆਂ ਆਦਿ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਸ਼ਬਾਰ ਗੁਪਤ 5.48 ਲੱਖ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਲਈ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਵਿਧੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਡਿਜ਼ੀਟਲ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਇਹ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ/ਕੰਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਡਿਟੇਲ/ਡਿਟੇਲ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

(A) Date and Time Schedule:

Sr. No.	Last Date of Online Submission of Bidding Document	Opening of Technical Bid	Opening Bidding Documents
1	up to 18.01.2021, 11:00	18.01.2021, 14:00	18.01.2021, 16:00

**ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ:**

- 1) ਡਿਟੇਲ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਤਸੀਹੇ ਵਰਗੇ ਹੋਰ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ-ਕਾਜੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ ਵਿਖੇ ਡਿਟੇਲ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੇਖੇ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।
- 2) ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ/ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਫਸਰ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫੰਡ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।
- 3) ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਰੋਗਨਿੱਤਮ ਆਦਿ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਅਪਲੋਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

**ਸਹੀ/- ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ,** **ਸਹੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਫਸਰ,** **ਸਹੀ/- ਮਿਊਂਸੀਪਲ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ,**  
ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ। ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ। ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ।

DPR/Pb/448

**TENDER/RFP FOR SERVICES LIKE AMC, HOUSEKEEPING ETC. GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
**Tender reference No. 01 Dated - 2021**

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for:-

Sr. No.	Name of work
1	DNIT for O&M of W/S & Sew Scheme Malout for the period of 01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021.
2	DNIT for O&M of W/S & Sew Scheme Kotfatta for the period of 01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021.
3	DNIT for Providing & Laying of C.I. D/E Pipe 200mm i/d & all other works contingent thereto at Danewala, Malout.
4	DNIT for providing & laying of 100mm i/d DI-K-7 water supply pipe line, 200mm o/d UPVC Pipe sewer, water supply & sewerage House connections & all other works contingent thereto from Nehru Rest House to Jauda pull along the canal at Rampura Phul Dist. Bathinda.

**Closing Date & time for Tender:-** 25.01.2021 at 03.00 p.m.  
For details login to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
**Note:-** Corrigendum(s) to the tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Pb. W/S & Sew Division No. 2, Bathinda.

DPR/Pb/448

**PUNJAB GOVERNMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUNJAB**  
**(Punjab Municipal Bhawan, Plot No. 3, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh)**  
**(Recruitment Cell)**  
**SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR DISABLED PERSONS ONLY**

**No. DLG-RC-2021/02** **Dated : 04.01.2021**

The Department of Local Government Punjab, had advertised 350 non-provisionalised cadre posts of backlog vacancies for disabled persons in Service Group-C and D in various Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils-Nagar Panchayats vide Public Notice No. DLG/RC/2019/01, dated 28.05.2019 and detailed Public Notice No. DLG/RC/2019/02, dated 31.05.2019. Thereafter a corrigendum was issued vide Public Notice No. DLG/RC/2020/04, dated 15.10.2020 to modify the aforesaid Public Notice to revise the number of posts from 350 to 332 Posts.

2. The document verification for above 332 posts (except 22 posts of clerk) has been scheduled w.e.f. **11.01.2021 to 23.01.2021**. All candidates whose names appear in the lists uploaded in the department website <http://pmide.punjab.gov.in/recruitment> and <http://lgpunjab.gov.in> are directed to appear before the Sub-Committee of Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils, which are situated at the District Head Quarter Level. The detailed Public Notice dated 04.01.2021 is available on the above website.

3. No separate letters will be issued. No TA/DA will be given for this purpose.

Sd/- Joint Director,  
For Director, Local Govt., Punjab.

DPR/Pb/416

**PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**  
**NOTICE INVITING OF e-TENDERS (2020-21)**  
**eproc.punjab.gov.in**

**E-Tender Notice No. PWSSB/Divn. 2/HASR/C-10 Dated: 05.01.2021**

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab W/S & Sewerage Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sewerage Division No. 2 Amritsar Re-invites online Lump Sum and percentage basis tenders from the approved Contractor/firms and eligible Co-operative L&C Societies who fulfill the eligible criteria as per DNIT for the work mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Bid Security/ Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1.	Detailed cost of estimate of sewerage scheme in various streets at Patti Town Distt. Tarn Taran (Deposit Work). DNIT for Providing of sub main sewerage, restoration of roads and House Connection and all other works contingent thereto	2% of DNIT Cost	100/- As Applicable	06 Months	130.63 Lacs

**For Sr. No. 1**  
**Important Dates are as under:-**

1. Period of availability of tender online shall be: **05.01.2021 to 21.01.2021**
2. Last Date & Time for online submission of Bid shall be: **21.01.2021 at 01:00 p.m.**
3. Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bids shall be: **21.01.2021 at 03:00 p.m.**

\*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website [eproc.punjab.gov.in](https://eproc.punjab.gov.in) corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn No. 2, Amritsar.

eproc.punjab.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The Department of Excise and Taxation, Haryana invites a proposal for expression of interest from manufacturers and the authorised suppliers of flow meters to be installed in the distilleries of the State. The requirement of the Department is to have a electronic temper proof flow meter which can measure a volume of the spirit (alcoholic spirit like rectified spirit, ENA) to a fair degree of accuracy. It should be tamper proof. It should be capable of being integrated into the online system of the Department.

**The proposal for expression of interest must contain the following:-**

- Name of the Company/authorised supplier
- Its turnover in the last five years and the turnover related to supply of flow meters
- 5 major buyers of flow meter
- The technical specification proposed by the vendor
- Accuracy
- Display
- Deliberation requirement
- Security: The proposal should give details about the possibility of dismantling, altering, removing or tampering in any manner
- Standards
- Remarks and suggestions

The proposal should reach the Department of Excise and Taxation upto **25.01.2021** by email or registered post. The email ID of the Department is [heexcise1@gmail.com](mailto:heexcise1@gmail.com). The postal address of the Department is: **Excise Collector, O/o Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Vanijiya Bhawan, Sector-5, Panchkula, Haryana.**

**Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana, Panchkula**

PRDH-1037/11/2021/1257/31/4

**GOVERNMENT POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION SOCIETY, LOHARU (BHIWANI)**  
**Website: www.gploharu.ac.in** Email ID: [gploharu@hry.nic.in](mailto:gploharu@hry.nic.in)  
**Advertisement for Empanelment of Guest Faculty/Instructors.**

Applications are invited for empanelment of Guest faculty/Instructors in various branches of Govt. Polytechnic's for Loharu (Cluster). Remuneration will be paid as per norms of Technical Education Deptt. Haryana.

Applications from interested candidates in duly filled proforma must reach on or before 27.01.2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the office of Principal, Govt. Polytechnic Education Society, Loharu by post/in person with self attested copies of Educational qualifications and experience, if any.

The proforma of Application, guidelines etc. are available on Technical Education Department website [www.techeduhry.nic.in](http://www.techeduhry.nic.in) & on Govt. Polytechnic, Loharu website [www.gploharu.ac.in](http://www.gploharu.ac.in).

**Principal,**  
**Govt. Polytechnic Education Society, Loharu (Bhiwani).**

PRDH/1115/11/5/2021/1253/31/4

**GOVT. OF PUNJAB**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**Website: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**  
**E-Tendering Notice No. 25/SPL Dated 05.01.2021**  
**Secure online submission of tenders**

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, e-tenders on work order basis are hereby invited through our website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from approved and eligible L&C Societies of Punjab Govt. registered with B&R Dept. and Contractors registered with Water Resources Department as details given below. Cost of tender for the work is **Rs. 500/-**. Head of Account Civil Deposit - 8443.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Lacs)	L&C Society	Contractors
1.	CHANNELIZATION OF NALLAH (PATIALA PERIPHERAL DRAIN) FROM RD 450 TO RD 800 MTR. (D/S DHOBHI GHAT)	119.02	1.19		2.38
2.	CHANNELIZATION OF NALLAH (PATIALA PERIPHERAL DRAIN) FROM RD 0 (U/S JYOTI ENCLAVE) TO RD 450 MTR	161.65	1.62		3.24

**Important Dates/Time**

Description	Date	Time
Date of Start of Sale of Tender	05-01-2021	01:00 P.M.
Date of Close of Sale of Tender	25-01-2021	11:00 A.M.
Date of Close of Bid	25-01-2021	12:00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	25-01-2021	01:00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid	27-01-2021	10:00 A.M.

1. All tendering process such as sale of tender documents, deposit of Earnest Money and submission of bid document shall be carried out online through our website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
2. For any enquiry of the above contact **0175-2228272** or through the email-id [eedrainage@gmail.com](mailto:eedrainage@gmail.com)
3. Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published on website only.
4. Tender is being called after getting technical sanction from the competent authority; however the tenders for the said works will be opened only after receiving the Administrative Approval/works.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Patiala Drainage Division, Patiala.

DPR/Pb/437

**हरियाणा विद्यालय शिक्षा बोर्ड, भिवानी**  
**हरियाणा अध्यापक पात्रता परीक्षा-2020**  
**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

सभी संबंधित को एनड्रस सूचित किया जाता है कि बोर्ड कार्यालय द्वारा दिनांक 02.01.2021 व 03.01.2021 को आयोजित कराई गई हरियाणा अध्यापक पात्रता परीक्षा (एचपेट) लेवल-1 (PRT), लेवल-2 (TGT) व लेवल-3 (PGT) से संबंधित सभी विषयों की डाफ्ट उत्तरकुंजी (Answer Key) दिनांक 03.01.2021 सायं से बोर्ड की वेबसाइट [www.bseh.org.in](http://www.bseh.org.in) पर सार्वजनिक कर दी जाएगी। यदि किसी अभ्यर्थी को प्रश्नपत्र कुलेट में दिए गए किसी भी प्रश्न या उत्तर कुंजी में दिए गए किसी भी प्रश्न के उत्तर (विकल्प) के बारे में कोई आपत्ति हो तो इस संबंध में पूर्ण तथ्यों/ प्रमाणों सहित दिनांक 04.01.2021 से 08.01.2021 (शुक्रवार) सायं 5:00 बजे तक निश्चित शूलक 200/- रुपये प्रति प्रश्न अनुसार जमा करावते हुए अपनी आपत्ति ऑनलाइन बोर्ड की वेबसाइट पर दर्ज करा सकने हैं। यदि किसी प्रश्न के संबंध में दर्ज कराई गई आपत्ति सही पाई जाती है तो ऐसी स्थिति में उस प्रश्न के लिए जमा शूलक अभ्यर्थी को परीक्षा परिणाम घोषित होने उपरांत वापस (Refund) कर दिया जाएगा। प्रश्न-पत्र व उत्तरकुंजी के संबंध में दिनांक 08.01.2021 सायं 05:00 बजे के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाली किसी भी आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा तथा बिना किसी नोटिस के आपत्ति अस्वीकृत कर दी जाएगी।

PRDH/1012/11/1/2021/1237/31/4

सचिव

**(SHORT TERMS TENDER)**  
**PUNJAB IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Website https://www.eproc.gov.in**  
**E-Tendering Notice No. 1** **Dated 04/01/2021**  
**SECURE ONLINE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS**

E-Tenders on work order basis, valid for 90 days are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Punjab through our website <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in> from eligible Contractors/Agencies registered with Punjab Water Resources Department PWD (B&R) Department, Mandi Board, Water Supply and Sanitation Department and only those L&C Societies who are registered/eligible only with Punjab PWD B&R (Principal Department) as per notification of Punjab Govt. Department of Co-operation (Co-operation-1 Branch) No. 7652/79-C-1(5)4342 dated 2-10-2014 as per details given below.

**Important Dates/Time**

Sr. No.	Events	Date	Time
1	Issue of Notice inviting Tender	05/01/2021	17:00 Hrs
2	Start of Sale of tenders	06/01/2021	10:00 Hrs
3	Closing of Submission of Tenders	21/01/2021	12:00 Hrs
4	Opening of Technical Bid	22/01/2021	15:00 Hrs
5	Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated after opening/evaluation of Technical bid	Completion period 30 days

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Tender form Cost (in Rs.)
1.	White Washing, Distemping, Painting and change of window glass in Non- Residential Buildings and Residential Building S-1, S-2, T-3 & T-4 at Ucha Thara Colony (Dam Site)	Rs. 6,47,197/-	i) 13000/- for Contractors ii) 6500/- For L&C CO-OP Societies	500/-
2	Upgradation of CCTV system already running on RSD-Project including AMC for two year	Rs. 20,86,918/-	i) 42000/- for Contractors ii) 21000/- for L&C CO-OP Societies	500/-

1. For detailed terms and condition refer to website <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
RSD-Township Division, Shahpurkandi Township, Pathankot. Phone No. 6005722896

DPR/Pb/458







# Rohit set to replace Mayank



India's players during a training session in Sydney on Tuesday. AP/PTI

## 3rd pacer's job to go to Saini or Thakur

**SYDNEY, JANUARY 5** Rohit Sharma is certain to replace Mayank Agarwal at the top of the batting order against Australia in the third Test, which starts here on Thursday. The Indian team management is weighing its options for the third pacer's slot too, with Shardul Thakur and Navdeep Saini in contention. Agarwal's axing was only a matter of time after consecutive failures in his last six Test innings — with scores of 7, 3, 17, 9, 0, 5 — and Sharma, despite not playing any competitive cricket since the IPL final on November 10, is likely to replace him in the playing XI. The choice for the third pacer's slot has got a bit tricky with divergent

### Third man: T Natarajan

There is a third angle to the debate over the pace attack and that is Thangarasu Natarajan, who has had a meteoric rise in the past four months and many feel he is ready for Test cricket. Natarajan has played 20 First-Class matches, the last of which was a year ago against Railways in Chennai. Railways were bowled out for 76 and 90 on a rank turner, and Natarajan bowled a total of 11 overs in that match and picked up three wickets. Whether Natarajan is ready for the arduous bump and grind of Test cricket is the biggest question.

“On Sydney pitch, you will require a bit more pace and Navdeep (Saini) has that. ...you haven't tested Natarajan by playing him for India A. Navdeep has come up the ranks having been on multiple red ball tours of India A” **Ashish Nehra**, FORMER INDIA PACER

### Likely India squad

Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur/Navdeep Saini

opinions emerging on who could fit the role best in the absence of the injured Umesh Yadav.

Mumbai seamer Shardul Thakur, who is a useful

lower-order batsman too, had emerged as the early favourite to replace Yadav but it is learnt that some senior players feel that Saini, India's fastest bowler, could be used to unsettle the wobbly Australian batting line-up with raw pace.

The Indian team had a net session at the overcast Sydney Cricket Ground today and all eyes were on Sharma, who looked pretty comfortable against both pace and spin.

### Decision delayed

The decision on the third pacer has been primarily delayed because today the wicket was covered due to the overcast conditions. A look at the wicket and the conditions tomorrow will help the Indians make a decisive choice. If the conditions are forecast to be cloudy and there is a significant moisture on the wicket, then Thakur is expected to be preferred. If the track is on the flatter side, Saini, with his pace and ability to reverse-swing the old ball, could prove to be a handful against a batting order that is struggling to reach even 200 runs in an innings.

If Saini plays, it will be his debut in the longest format while for Thakur, it would be like a debut as he couldn't even finish his second over when he played his first Test against West Indies two years ago due to an injury. — PTI, TNS

### Rahul out with sprained left wrist

**SYDNEY:** India batsman KL Rahul was today ruled out of the remaining two Tests against Australia after sustaining a wrist injury during training in Melbourne, the BCCI said. Rahul had not played any match of the ongoing series. “KL Rahul sprained his left wrist while batting in the nets at the MCG during Team India's practice session on Saturday. ...he will need about three weeks time to recover completely and regain full strength,” the BCCI said in a statement.

### Warner likely to play, Pucovski set for debut

David Warner has done everything to be ready and is likely to compete in the third Test, Australia head coach Justin Langer said today. Langer assured that the lack of four-day cricket for the opener in the last few months is not a concern. Langer also announced that young batsman Will Pucovski will make his Test debut on Thursday. Both Warner and Pucovski, who was primed for Test debut in Adelaide, missed the first two Tests of the series due to a groin injury and concussion-related issues, respectively. “Very hopeful that David will be ready to go (for the third Test), he is a bit of a warrior, isn't he? I have said this since Day 1 that he is doing everything possible to be ready,” Langer said. Langer also announced that 22-year-old Pucovski, who was hit on the head during the warm-up game against India A, has been cleared to play. “He has been cleared and that will be very heartening for him and for his family and everyone involved in it,” he said.

### Likely Australia squad

Will Pucovski, David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade, Cameron Green, Tim Paine (wicketkeeper), Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon

### Langer lauds disciplined India

Australia coach Justin Langer today said India have been distinctly well-planned and disciplined, especially in bowling. “...their greatest strength over the last couple of series has been their discipline,” Langer said. “They (India) have been so well disciplined... I have loved the last two Tests because the wickets have been a contest between bat and ball and you have got to work a bit harder and that is what Test cricket is all about,” he added.



Ravindra Jadeja and Shubman Gill during nets. AP/PTI

## BRIEFLY

**NEW DELHI** **Clark appointed analytical coach of men's hockey team** South African Olympian Gregg Clark has been appointed as the new analytical coach of the Indian men's hockey team till the Tokyo Olympic Games, Hockey India announced today. Clark, who will join the national camp this month, had coached the Indian junior men's team in 2013-2014 when it won the Sultan of Johor Cup and also participated at the 2013 FIH Junior World Cup in New Delhi. He was associated with the Canadian men's team as assistant coach between 2017 and 2020.

**MARGAO** **Mumbai City breeze past Bengaluru with clinical win** Mumbai City FC extended their unbeaten run in the Indian Super League season with a comfortable 3-1 win over Bengaluru FC here today. Mumbai also climbed to the top, two points above ATK Mohun Bagan.

**SYDNEY** **Djokovic, Nadal set to return for 2nd ATP Cup in Australia** ATP Cup champion Novak Djokovic and runner-up Rafael Nadal are set to return for the season-opening men's tennis event starting February 1, but the US will be missing.

**RIYADH** **Peterhansel retains Dakar lead as Al-Attayah closes gap** Stephane Peterhansel retained his Dakar Rally lead in the car category after today's third stage as Qatari Nasser Al-Attayah closed the gap to five minutes in the Saudi Arabian desert dunes and canyons. Al-Attayah, a triple champion, took his third stage win after leading the way in Saturday's prologue and then clawing back time on Monday after losing 12 minutes on Sunday. AGENCIES

**TODAY ON TV**  
THIRD TEST  
INDIA VS AUSTRALIA  
SONY SIX 5AM (THURSDAY)  
ISL  
EAST BENGAL VS GOA  
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

# No access to physios: Saina not happy about Covid rules



Saina Nehwal will participate in two tournaments in Thailand. FILE

**BANGKOK, JANUARY 5** India's Saina Nehwal today lashed out at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) for denying the athletes, among other things, access to trainers and physios ahead of the upcoming tournaments in Thailand. In a series of tweets, Olympics bronze-medallist Saina expressed her displeasure at the restrictions imposed by BWF as part of its Covid-19 protocols for the bio-security bubble. “The physios and trainers cannot meet us during the

entire tour after all of us have tested negative? 4 weeks of this how is it possible to maintain ourselves. We want to play the tournament in good condition. Please sort this @bwfmedia,” Saina tweeted. With March being the cut-off date for Tokyo Olympics qualification, Saina is worried that the lack of proper training might have an impact on her performance. The former world No. 1 said she tried contacting the BWF, but to no avail.

“Practice only for an hour everyday for the entire team? Gym timings the same ... considering March being the important Olympic qualification period this is not good enough to be in good shape. No Time for warm ups/taping/cool downs/stretching.. we are talking about the best players in the world competing isn't it? We've spent a lot of money getting the physios and trainers along with us . If they can't help us then why was this not told before?” she wrote. — PTI

# Saints stun leaders Liverpool

**SOUTHAMPTON, JANUARY 5** Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl slumped to the ground, pulled down the bill of his cap, and wept after another big win for his team in the English Premier League. On the receiving end this time were Liverpool, who also appear to be on their knees in what is shaping up to be the most open title races in years. Danny Ings, a former Liverpool player, scored in the second minute to lead Southampton to a 1-0 win over the champions at an empty St. Mary's Stadium on Monday. Liverpool have gone

three games without a win — after back-to-back draws against West Bromwich Albion and Newcastle — and lead on only goal difference from great rivals Manchester United, who have played one game fewer. United aren't the only team in striking distance of the lead approaching the halfway point of the league. Four points separate Liverpool from seventh-placed Everton, with 10th-placed West Ham only seven points off the lead in what was always going to be a disjointed season amid the pandemic. Southampton are in the

mix, their latest win lifting Hasenhuttl's team to sixth place in a season when they have been in first place — albeit briefly — for the first time since 1988. It all proved too much for the emotional Hasenhuttl at the final whistle. Southampton were depleted for the game. But the Saints still had Ings, who latched onto a free-kick by James Ward-Prowse and lifted a bouncing ball over goalkeeper Alisson Becker and into the far corner. It was attack vs defense from then on but Southampton held firm. — AP



Danny Ings lifts a bouncing ball over the goalkeeper to score for Southampton. REUTERS

# Williamson crushes Pakistan with 248

**CHRISTCHURCH, JANUARY 5** Kane Williamson scored 238, the fourth double-century of his career and his second of the summer, as New Zealand declared with a 362-run lead over Pakistan on the third day of the second Test.

Williamson's nine-hour innings and a 369-run fourth-wicket partnership with Henry Nicholls, who made 157, helped New Zealand declare at 659/6 in reply to Pakistan's 297. The 11 overs remaining in the day allowed New Zealand to reduce Pakistan to 8/1 in their second innings. Williamson briefly delayed his declaration to allow all-rounder Daryl Mitchell, son of former All Blacks rugby coach and current England assistant coach John Mitchell, to reach a maiden Test century. Mitchell put on 133 with Williamson for the sixth wicket. He was 69 not out when tea was taken late after a rain-affected second session and returned knowing he had only a handful of overs to reach his hundred. He was 93 when Williamson indicated that that was to be the last over in the New Zealand innings. With a single, a pair of twos and a boundary, he reached his century off the fifth ball. Pakistan openers Shan Masood and Abid Ali came to

### SA sweep series



South Africa's Dean Elgar holds the Man of the Match and Man of the Series trophies. AP/PTI

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa completed a sweep of their two-match series against Sri Lanka as they stroled to a 10-wicket win on the third day of the second Test today. South Africa knocked off a target of 67 runs without loss as openers Dean Elgar (31 not out) and Aiden Markram (36 not out) saw them to victory at the Wanderers Stadium — with two and a half days of the contest still remaining. REUTERS

the crease at 6.30pm in gloom lifted a little by Hagley Oval's new floodlights.

### Kane goes past 7,000

Williamson crossed 7,000 runs in Tests, following his current teammate Ross Taylor and former captain Stephen Fleming as only New Zealanders to achieve that mark. — AP/PTI

## निविदा सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, करनाल में डीजल मैकेनिक/फिटर/इलेक्ट्रिशियन/कारपेन्टर के शिक्षकों की आवश्यकता है। जिसके लिए अपेक्षित दस्तावेजों की जांच के लिए दिनांक 14.01.2021 निर्धारित की गई है।

अतः जो इच्छुक उम्मीदवार शिक्षता हेतु योग्यता पूर्ण करता है, वह अप्रेंटिस पोर्टल पर दिनांक 08.01.2021 से 11.01.2021 तक अपने आवेदन का रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाना सुनिश्चित करें।

महाप्रबन्धक,  
हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, करनाल

PRDH/1119/11/9/2021/1255/31/4

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
SERIAL NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE /NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH.
1	UHBVN PACHKULA	NIT NO. 286P/AD/2020-21 (BID NO. B-637)	CORRIGENDUM-II SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/ TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, PANIPAT ON TURKEY BASIS. OPENING DATE: 15.01.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in xendd2@uhbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN PACHKULA	NIT NO. 297P/AD/2020-21 (BID NO. B-638)	CORRIGENDUM-II SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/ TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, HAJAJAR ON TURKEY BASIS. OPENING DATE: 15.01.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in xendd2@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaprocedurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocedurement.gov.in) or [www.atenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.atenders.hry.nic.in) PRDH/13/2021/1401/250/11/4

**कोशल विकास एवं औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण विभाग, हरियाणा**  
कोशल भवन, प्लाट नं. आई.पी.-2, सेक्टर-3, पंचकूला  
वेबसाइट : [www.itiharyana.gov.in](http://www.itiharyana.gov.in)

**सत्र 2020-21 में औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिला उपरांत मूल-प्रमाण पत्रों की जांच करवाने बारे नोटिस**

हरियाणा राज्य में स्थित सभी राजकीय एवं निजी औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में सत्र 2020-21 में दाखिला प्राप्त छात्र-छात्राओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिन छात्र-छात्राओं ने अभी तक संबंधित संस्थान में उपस्थित होते हुए अपने मूल दस्तावेजों की जांच नहीं करवाई है, वे दिनांक 11.01.2021 तक संस्थान में स्वयं उपस्थित होकर अपने सभी मूल दस्तावेजों की जांच करवाई अन्यथा उनका दाखिला रद्द कर दिया जाएगा तथा इस प्रकार रिक्त हुई सीटों के प्रति नया दाखिला कर लिया जाएगा।

महानिदेशक

PRDH/1065/11/2/2021/1243/31/4

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
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**ENGAGEMENT OF (TWO) CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (CMPs)**

Candidates (including Retired Railway Doctors), willing to work as Contract Medical Practitioner (CMP)/GDMO are called for **Walk-in-Interview on 09.01.2021 for engagement upto 30.06.2021** or till the pandemic of COVID-19 continues, whichever is earlier, at Railway Hospital, DMW/Patiala on the terms and conditions available at our website [www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in). <News and Announcement > News and Announcements 21/2021

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

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**Advertisement**

**District AYUSH Society, KARNAL**

District AYUSH Society, Karnal invites application from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following post in the District Karnal, Haryana under National AYUSH Mission purely on contract basis initially up to 31.03.2021 with details as mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Date and Time of Written Test
1.	District Programme Manager	1	15.01.2021 at 10:00 a.m.
2.	Data entry Operator	1	
3.	Yoga Instructor (Part-Time) under AHWC	26	-----

- The interested candidates are advised to visit website [www.karnal.gov.in](http://www.karnal.gov.in) for details of post and download the application form and also may be collected from office of District Ayurvedic Office, Karnal.
- Last date for submitting of duly filled application form is **11.01.2021 up to 05:00 p.m.** in the office of District Ayurvedic Office, Karnal by hand or by Registered Post only.
- The Written Test will be held at office of District Ayurvedic Office, Karnal.
- The Typing Test for the post of Data Entry Operator will be held immediately after written test.
- Interview for the above post will likely be held on **15.01.2021** and onwards. Applicants will be intimated on Mobile No/E-mail Id provided by the applicant. Therefore applicants are advised to produce valid E-mail Id and valid Mobile No. Interview schedule will be uploaded on above mentioned website also. Please check [www.karnal.gov.in](http://www.karnal.gov.in) regularly.
- Candidates coming for interview are advised to bring original documents for verification.
- For any query you can contact **Mob. No. 8950547924**.

**Sd/- District Ayurvedic Officer-cum-Member Secretary, District AYUSH Society, Karnal.**

PRDH-1010/11/9/2021/1235/31/4

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Materials Management Department**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE No. 01/2021**  
**Sale of Locomotives "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"**

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway proposes to sell Broad Gauge Locomotives through e-auction in working condition on "As is Where is Basis".

**Details of Diesel Locomotives on Sale**

S No.	Locomotive Type	Quantity (in Nos.)	Location	Age of Loco (Years)
1	WDM 3A	31	Tughlakabad, Ludhiana & Lucknow	30 to 36
2	WDP 1	16	Tughlakabad	24
3	WDP 3A	04	Tughlakabad	15 to 20

The E-Auction of these Locomotives is expected to be held in the month of **February, 2021 or March, 2021**. These Locomotives are available at Tughlakabad, Ludhiana and Lucknow Sheds of Northern Railway. The Locomotives are stabled in the Locomotive Sheds and are to be disposed in the present same condition. For physical appreciation of the bidders, a site visit is also being organized on **02.02.2021 at 11:00 hrs.** at Tughlakabad Diesel Locomotive Shed. Attention of the interested Bidders is also invited to participate in the E-Auction. Interested Bidders may register at [www.iraps.gov.in](http://www.iraps.gov.in) after obtaining the Class-III Digital Signature for participation and submission of bids in E-Auction. You may please also log on at [www.nr.indianrailway.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailway.gov.in) for relevant details of these Locomotives.

**A brief details of these Locos are given in the table below:**

**Contact address** Office of the Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Northern Railway, Headquarter Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001. Contact No.: 9717630752

(Rajesh Kumar)  
Chief Materials Manager/Sale

25/2021

**Serving Customers with a Smile**



IN BRIEF



I-T sleuths quiz Vadra for 2nd day

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department questioned Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, for the second consecutive day on Tuesday in connection with its probe against him under the benami assets law, official sources said. A team from the Chandigarh investigation unit of the department, that is handling the probe, was seen going inside Vadra's office in the Sukhdev Vihar area of the national capital around 3 pm. — PTI

Assets of Singapore company attached

NEW DELHI: The ED said it had issued a provisional attachment order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to seize assets worth Rs 452 crore belonging to AS Coal Pte Singapore, a Singapore-based shell company owned by a British national Jaimin Vyas in a fraud case. The attached assets are in the form of 8.86 per cent shares of ILFS Tamil Nadu Power Company Limited, which has a market value of Rs 452 crore. — TNS

Flag waving: CISF to review Taj security

NEW DELHI: A day after four persons were held for waving saffron flags on the Taj Mahal premises, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which has the responsibility to guard it, said on Tuesday that it would review its surveillance and intelligence gathering at the Mughal-era monument to ensure such incidents didn't recur. The four youths have been booked for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups. — PTI

NDRF inducts its first women's team

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5 Keeping in line with the government's policy, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers.

Officials in the country's federal calamity force said an all-women team of freshly trained NDRF personnel was recently deployed for contingency duties on the banks of the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh's Garh Mukteshwar town.

According to the officials, these women personnel have all required skills to play the role of rescuers.

It is learnt from the officials that the women personnel are joining in the ranks of constabulary and sub-officer (Sub-Inspector and Inspector) and as per authorisation, each NDRF battalion of over 1,000 personnel will soon have over 100 women rescuers. The NDRF has 12 operational battalions stationed at various locations in the country. "The first women rescuers' team is already on ground. Recently, the UP government requisitioned an NDRF team and they (women) went there (Garh Mukteshwar). The team handled the rescue boats and related equipment," NDRF director general SN Pradhan said. "These personnel

PM's energy roadmap: Raising natural gas share from 6 to 15%

Unveils Kochi-Mangaluru pipeline as part of 'one nation, one gas grid'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The government is working to increase the share of natural gas in India's energy basket by two and a half times from 6 per cent to 15 per cent.

Inaugurating the 450-km Rs 3,000-crore Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline virtually, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the government was working on shifting to a natural gas-based economy through the 'one nation, one gas grid' project.

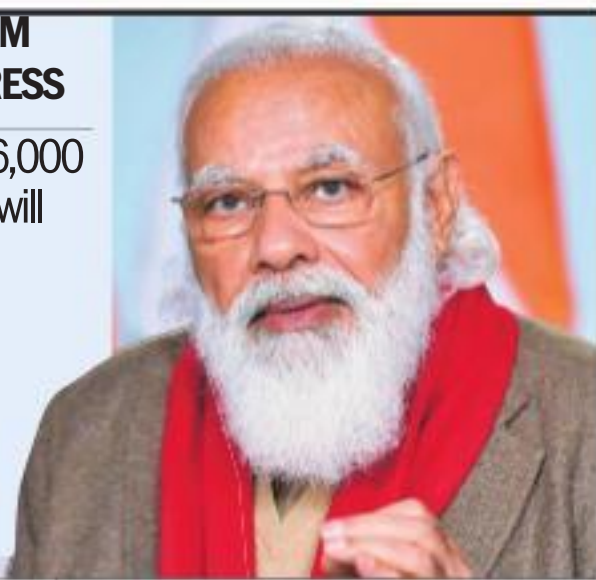
Noting that a young India could not afford to move slowly, the Prime Minister said there were reasons why the country's development pace was sluggish in the past century. "There would have been reasons why India moved slowly in the last century, but today's young India is keen to capture the world's imagination and cannot tread slowly," the PM said.

He listed facts to argue how

WORK ON 16,000-KM PIPELINE IN PROGRESS

Work is on for 16,000 km of pipeline and it will be completed in four to six years. We will accomplish 27 years of work in half the time.

Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER



700 CNG

STATIONS WILL BE SET UP IN KERALA AND KARNATAKA

21 LAKH

ADDITIONAL PEOPLE TO BENEFIT FROM GAIL'S KOCHI TO MANGALURU PIPELINE

CLEAN FUEL

The PM listed several advantages of natural gas, saying it would aid industrial output and help generate clean fuel.

Unprecedented work is underway in India to improve air, water, digital and gas connectivity, the PM said.

the government had ensured speed, scale and scope in the sector of oil reforms in recent days. He said the first interstate natural gas pipeline was commissioned in India in 1987 and until 2014, in 27 years, only 15,000 km of natu-

ral gas pipeline was laid. "Today, work is on for 16,000 km of pipeline and it will be completed in four to six years. We will accomplish 27 years of work in half the time," said the PM. The first CNG station in India started in 1992 and in

22 years till 2014, only 900 stations have been set up.

"In the last six years, over 1,500 stations have started and the aim is to raise this number to 10,000," the PM said.

The gas pipeline commissioned today will help set up 700 CNG stations in Kerala and Karnataka.

On piped natural gas, the PM mentioned how till 2014, 25 lakh connections had been given while today 72 lakh houses had piped gas.

GAIL's Kochi-Mangaluru pipeline will benefit 21 lakh additional people with PNG, the PM added noting that as of 2014 only 14 crore cooking gas cylinders had been given, while the government had given 12 crore during the Covid times alone.

"There was no shortage of cooking gas during the pandemic because we gave out 12 crore free cylinders," he said, adding that this had resulted in easing the pressure on kerosene supplies.

India, China fail to agree on next round of talks on LAC standoff

AJAY BANERJEE

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

Two months since the last round of military-level talks between India and China, positions have more or less hardened, with no 'forward movement' on even deciding the date for conducting the next round of talks.

"There is no common ground for now, both sides have not changed their stance," said a senior functionary, adding that so far no dates had been agreed upon to conduct the ninth round of Lt General-level talks. The last round was conducted on November 6. Troops of either side are within rifle-shot range of each other, while both sides have lined up tanks, artillery guns, rocket launchers, missiles and thousands of troops along the 826-km Line of Actual (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

It was on December 18 that the 20th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was conducted. It was

PLA BACKTRACKED ON AGREEMENTS

It was after the sixth round of talks on September 21 that the two sides agreed not to add any more troops along the frontline and refrain from unilaterally changing the ground situation along the LAC.

A series of discussions have taken place in Moscow on September 4 and 10. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had met their respective counter-



parts at the two meetings.

The Indian Army is circumspect as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) backtracked on agreements to disengage along the LAC in June.

"agreed to hold the next (ninth) round of Senior Army Commanders meeting at an early date so that both sides can work towards early and complete disengagement of troops along the LAC," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had then said. The WMCC decided that both sides would continue to work towards ensuring complete disengagement at all friction points along the LAC at the earliest.

Sources said since then there has been no development to decide on the dates for mili-

tary commander-level talks. The two sides have been discussing over the hotline. However, there is no formal agreement. Severe winter has set in as night temperatures are dropping to minus 40 degrees Celsius. Between June and November 6, the two sides conducted eight rounds of military commander-level talks at location in Eastern Ladakh.

It was after the sixth round of talks on September 21 that the two sides agreed not to add any more troops along the frontline.

PIL in apex court accuses Twitter of ideological bias

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

Accusing Twitter of ideological bias and shadow banning, a PIL in the Supreme Court has sought regulation of social media platforms by framing guidelines until Parliament enacts a law to deal with the issue. Twitter crossed all limits of lawlessness when it supported the mocking of the Supreme Court and its judges, petitioner advocate Mahek Maheshwari alleged.

"Due to lack of the government control and intervention on the social media platform Twitter, act the way they fit their way, ideology and desires. Twitter is not having government control so it



Demands regulation of social media

freely act unethically and shadow ban many accounts which do not suit its ideological inclination," read the petition. "When a social media platform starts to support a particular ideological wing creating a rift among masses by treating them unequally as building an ecosystem against the nation," the petitioner contended.

Will be voice of developing world: Tirumurti

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The Indian flag was raised at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) stakeout in a ceremony on Monday.

Monday marked the first working day at the United Nations with the two-year term for five new non-permanent members starting on January 1.

Speaking at the ceremony, India's Permanent Representative to the UN TS Tirumurti said, "India will be a voice of the developing world and will use its tenure to bring human-centred and inclusive solutions to matters of international peace and security."

Global leaders hail India for decisive virus fight

NEW YORK, JANUARY 5

Global leaders have lauded India's leadership in scientific innovation and decisive action to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, as the country gets set to begin the world's largest vaccination drive.

The Drug Controller General of India on Sunday approved the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute and Covaxin of Bharat Biotech, for restricted emergency use in the country, paving the way for a massive inoculation drive.

"It's great to see India's leadership in scientific innovation and vaccine manufacturing capability as the world works to end the Covid-19 pandemic," Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said in a tweet, tagging

GREAT TO SEE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

It's great to see India's leadership in scientific innovation and vaccine manufacturing capability as the world works to end the Covid-19 pandemic. Bill Gates, CO-CHAIR OF THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION



the Prime Minister's Office. Director-General of the World Health Organisation Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted that India "continues to take decisive action & demonstrate its resolve to end #Covid-19 pandemic". "As the world's largest vac-



cine producer, it's well placed to do so. If we #ACTtogether, we can ensure effective & safe vaccines are used to protect the most vulnerable everywhere," Ghebreyesus said and tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his tweet. A day after India's drug reg-

ulator approved two vaccines for restricted emergency use, Modi said the world's biggest inoculation drive against coronavirus was set to begin in the country. Praising the scientists and technicians for the 'Made in India' vaccines, he said the country was proud of them. — PTI

Didi queues up



WB Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lines up to collect her Swasthya Sathi card from an outreach camp in Kolkata. PTI

Vista a wasteful expenditure: Cong

Puri tweets 2012 letter calling for new building

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The Congress and the BJP clashed on Tuesday over SC nod to Central Vista with the Opposition terming the project a "misplaced priority".

Soon as Congress leaders Anand Sharma and Randeep Surjewala questioned the project saying it was a "colossal waste of public money", Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri accused the Opposition of "selective amnesia".

Puri tweeted a letter the office of Lok Sabha Speaker in 2012 wrote to the Urban Development Ministry flag-

'CASE OF MISPLACED PRIORITIES'

It is a case of misplaced priorities....It is ironic that in times of Covid and recession, the government has ₹14,000 crore for Central Vista and ₹8,000 crore to buy aircraft for the PM.

Randeep Surjewala, CONG LEADER

ging the need for a new Parliament building.

Surjewala argued that the issue was not a legalistic one. "It is a case of misplaced pri-

orities... It is ironic that in times of Covid and recession, the government has Rs 14,000 crore for Central Vista and Rs 8,000 crore to buy aircraft for the PM. The same government imposed cuts of Rs 37,530 crore in the allowances of central employees and pensioners," he said.

Puri, however, said the SC order would pave the way for Delhi becoming a world class capital city. Congress 'senior spokesperson Anand Sharma said, "Grand buildings of brick and mortar do not strengthen Parliamentary democracy, a functioning Parliament does."



Boris dials PM, says will visit once Covid over

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cancelled his India visit that included being the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in order to oversee the pandemic response at home, said an announcement from Downing Street.

Johnson also called up PM Narendra Modi to regret his inability to attend the event in view of complete lockdown in his country and reiterated his keenness to visit India in the near future, according to an official news release here.

PM Modi expressed his understanding of the exceptional situation in the UK and conveyed his best wishes for quick control of the pandemic. He looked forward to receiving Johnson in India at the earliest opportunity after normalisation of the situation, added the news release.

US President Donald Trump had declined PM Modi's invite to be the chief guest at the 2019 Republic Day celebrations, but made up for it by attending the "Namaste Trump" rally in Ahmedabad.

However, Trump had conveyed his regrets nearly three months in advance, giving South Block enough time to invite South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. — TNS

Need to build guidelines for Indo-Pacific, says Juster

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

The outgoing US Ambassador to India, Kenneth Juster, on Tuesday suggested that over the next five years India and the US should jointly draw redlines in the maritime domain. "Our mission over the next five years and beyond should be to give this (Quad) endeavour further form and substance — to develop guidelines and, if necessary, even redlines," he observed while speaking at a webinar.

The US envoy was not convinced that Indian economic reforms based on the Aatmanirbhar Bharat policy were enough to attract US firms from China. "It remains to be seen whether all of these policies are compatible



US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster in Delhi. PTI

and mutually reinforcing, or whether they will lead to higher tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade," he said.

Juster admitted to "frictions and frustrations" on the trade and investment front and the inability of both countries to conclude "even a small trade package". Moreover, there

were growing restrictions in India on market access for certain US goods and services, increasing tariffs, new limitations on the free flow of data, and a less-than-predictable regulatory environment for investors, complained the US Ambassador.

Suggesting that India should not be fixated on the price of the imported military equipment, he suggested that defence procurement should be about quality and strategic interoperability across services and "perhaps even with other friendly forces". Making a case for a deeper Indian involvement in the Indo-Pacific region, Juster said over 50 per cent of international trade passed through its waters, rich in natural resources and fast becoming the centre of gravity of the evolving international system.