

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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SIX REPUBLICANS SIDE WITH
DEMS FOR TRUMP TRIAL WORLD

INFLOW IN GOLD ETFs SURGES 45% TO
₹625 CRORE IN JANUARY BUSINESS

GOVT POSITION FOR AZAD?
SPECULATION RIFE BACK PAGE

THURSDAY | 11 FEBRUARY 2021

India, China begin pullback from Pangong Tso

Beijing announces move | Tank withdrawal commences from south bank | Troop cut from north

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10
More than nine months into the military standoff, India and China on Wednesday kick-started the process to disengage troops from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The process has been initiated on the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso, 135-km glacial lake. Some 50,000 troops on either side have been facing each other along the 823-km-long LAC.

While India is yet to make



The Pangong lake in Ladakh

EPICENTRE OF TENSIONS BETWEEN TWO SIDES

■ 50,000 troops on either side have been facing each other along the 823-km-long LAC. Since August-end, both armies have been within rifle-shot range of each other in the south bank of Pangong Tso following a clash.

an official statement on the matter, Chinese defence ministry website ran a state-

ment by its spokesperson Colonel Wu Qian today. "Chinese and Indian front-

PERMANENT ON SEAT: CHINA HARPS ON 'PACKAGE SOLUTION'

Beijing: China, which has been blocking India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, on Wednesday called for evolving a "package solution" that is acceptable to all to reform the top organ of the global body. India began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member on January 1. PTI

line troops at the southern and northern bank of the Pangong Tso start synchro-

nised and organised disengagement from February 10," he stated. Top sources in the Indian security establishment have said that "this will be part of a gradual step-wise disengagement process".

Tanks and mechanised equipment of both sides have been pulled back from locations south of the Pangong Tso, the sources said. Since August-end, troops of both sides have been within rifle-shot range of each other in the Rinchen La and Rezang La areas on the south bank of the Pangong Tso fol-

lowing a clash. On the north bank of the lake - which has a more rugged terrain - both sides have begun the process of thinning out troops.

RAJNATH'S STATEMENT IN RAJYA SABHA TODAY

The pullback shall be physically verified before the next disengagement step is undertaken, said the sources, as they recalled the Galwan clash on June 15 which occurred after the first phase of pullback. So far, only tanks and mechanised equipment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Overused, JCBs at tunnel ineffective

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TAPOVAN (JOSHIMATH), FEB 10
The pace of rescue operation at the Tapovan hydel project tunnel slackened considerably on Wednesday with mud-removal machines giving way and reinforcements far from sight.

Over 35 to 50 workers are feared trapped inside the 250-metre-long tunnel. So far 55 metre length of the tunnel has been cleared of slush, which has been hampering rescue efforts even as families of those missing held a protest at Joshimath today to question "inordinate delay in breaching the tunnel".

The Uttarakhand administration said 32 bodies had been recovered so far and eight identified.

The estimation of those missing has gone up from 166 yesterday to 172 today after multiagency teams, which used drones and remote-sensing equipment at the site, pointed to new locations where bodies could be buried under slush.

At Tapovan, rescuers told *The Tribune* that the two JCB loaders deployed to clear the tunnel could break down any time now. There were no replacements available yet.

Further, the water level inside the tunnel is constant-

Patience thinning kin of trapped workers protest 'delay' in ops



Rescuers in Tapovan tunnel. PTI

HOPING AGAINST HOPE
■ Flood toll 32, no body extricated on Wednesday.
■ 55 metre length of the tunnel has been cleared of slush.
■ Urgent machinery reinforcement sought.

ly surging. Families of missing workers of the Rishiganga hydel project site protested accusing the authorities of not carrying out rescue operations properly. Some of the families among protesters were from Punjab.

EDITION: OUTRAGE IN LAHALU-SPITI

Twitter suspends 500 accounts

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE & PTI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10
Twitter on Wednesday said it had suspended over 500 accounts and blocked access to several others within India as it partly acceded to a government order to curb the spread of misinformation around farmers' protests.

Twitter, in a blog post, said it had not blocked accounts consisting of "news media entities, journalists, activists and politicians as doing so would violate their fundamental right to free expression".

The government, however, termed as "unusual" Twitter's move to publish the blog. "Upon the request of Twitter, the IT Secretary was to engage with its senior management. In this light, a blog

Spares media entities, activists, politicians



**AMNESTY DECRIES
CRACKDOWN ON AGITATORS**
DEAD FARMER'S KIN MOVE HC
**YADAV INCITED FARMERS:
BITTU IN LOK SABHA**
**UK MP DHESI WORRIED OVER
NODEEP ARREST**
READY FOR DIALOGUE

Our objective is not change in power (at the Centre). We want the govt to repeal the farm laws. Our committee is ready for talks.
Rakesh Tikait, BKU LEADER

post published prior to it is unusual," the IT Ministry said in its response on Koo, a

homegrown platform. Twitter was asked by the government to block 1,178 accounts.

Govt, Parliament have respect for farmers: PM in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10
Speaking in the Lok Sabha during the motion of thanks on President's Address, PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday reached out to agitating farmers, saying the government and Parliament had great respect for them, which was why topmost ministers had been talking to them.

Once again, accusing "andolanjevis" of exploiting the "pavitra andolan" of the farmers, he urged the pro-

MANDIS, MSP TO STAY



PM IN PARLIAMENT

ing these were enacted to meet new challenges in the agriculture sector. He allayed fears, saying neither any "mandi" had been shut

'RAIL ROKO' ON FEB 18: UNIONS

down nor had the MSP been discontinued, rather the MSP had been hiked.

"No one asked for laws against dowry, triple talak... but these laws were enacted because they were progressive," he said. **BACK PAGE**



Will scrap laws, if voted in: Priyanka

LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 10
Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra today said her party would scrap the farm law, if voted to power.

Addressing a "kisan panchayat" in Saharanpur, she accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders of "insulting" farmers who are protesting against the laws.

"The three laws are draconian. If voted to power, the Congress will scrap these," she said. "With these laws, the farmers' voice will become weak and the voice of billionaires grow stronger," she added. — PTI

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Hry creates special job cadre for sportspersons

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 10
The Haryana Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of CM Manohar Lal Khattar, today unveiled a bonanza for outstanding sportspersons by creating a special cadre for them in government jobs.

With the introduction of Outstanding Sportspersons (Group A, B & C) Service Rules-2021, a separate cadre would be created to promote sports in the state.

Under the new rules, 50 Group-A posts (deputy director), 250 Group-B posts (senior coach and coach) and 250

Group-C posts (junior coach) have been sanctioned. The upper age limit has also reduced from 50 to 42 years.

Outstanding sportspersons will be eligible to apply for the post within 10 years of their sports achievement or up to the age of 42.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Shadow campaign: Most women candidates bank on sons, spouses



CIVIC BODY POLL

SAMEER SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 10
Even as 50 per cent of seats are reserved for women candidates in Punjab civic body elections this year, most are running their campaign in the "shadow" of their husbands, fathers-in-law or sons.

For elections to the Bathinda Municipal Corporation, more than 100 women candidates are in fray from 50 wards. With campaigning in full steam, women candidates are often seen shadow walking their menfolk. Their posters have

been put up at public places, streets and roadsides, but they hardly feature alone in any poll material. Women rights activists believe that women have a long way to go.

A local Congress man said: "Post poll, it's mostly male members who call the shots."

Prof Neetu Arora said it would take time for women to be "truly empowered".

Photos of male kin dot posters & hoardings



Posters of women candidates in Bathinda with photos of kin.

TWO KILLED IN MOGA POLL CLASH, CASE REGISTERED

Moga: Two activists were allegedly run over by SUVs following a clash between Cong and SAD workers during campaigning here Tuesday night, the police said. A case has been filed. **INSIDE**

18 sailors stuck in China head home

NEW DELHI: Eighteen Indian sailors stuck in China would return to India on February 14, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday. "Our 18 stranded seafarers of MV Anastasia will sign off from Japan today and reach India on February 14," the minister said. — PTI

Principals of HP pvt institutes overage

SHIMLA: The principals of over 30 private educational institutions in Himachal Pradesh are either overage or working in officiating capacity, while five institutions are headless.

An exercise undertaken by the Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission (HPPEIRC) to verify credentials of the principals of 182 private educational institutions in the state also found that some institutions were functioning without affiliation.

A section of private colleges has allegedly submitted fictitious data pertaining to qualification and experience of their principals. **INSIDE**

paper.tribuneindia.com

Take steps to ensure free & fair elections, HC tells SEC



OUR CORRESPONDENT

FAZILKA, FEBRUARY 10
The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the State Election Commission to take appropriate measures to ensure free and fair conduct of elections in Fazilka.

In all, 13 BJP candidates contesting the MC elections from different wards of Fazilka had filed a writ petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court on February 8, stating that the election process was under threat and there was an imminent danger to their lives and liberty as they were contesting the municipal elections.

The petitioners apprehended that they could be attacked by the supporters of the ruling Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) during the ongoing farmers' agitation which was evident from the fact that SAD president

Direction comes on BJP leaders' petition seeking security at polling booths



Congress candidates campaign in Abohar. FILE PHOTO

Sukhbir Singh Badal and state BJP president Ashwani Sharma were assaulted in Jalalabad and Jalandhar, respectively.

The candidates also made representations at various government levels on February 6, seeking adequate security arrangements on the polling day.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court, while dispos-

ing of the petition on Tuesday (a copy of which is with *The Tribune*), stated that the Additional Advocate General (AAG), Punjab, on instructions received from Keshav Goyal, SDM-cum-Returning Officer, Fazilka, informed the court that the election authorities had already taken note of petitioners' representa-

tions and declared certain polling booths as sensitive and hypersensitive. The AAG told the court that police authorities had also been approached by the Election Commission to ensure that law and order was maintained during the election process.

In light of the submissions, the court, while disposing of the petition, directed the State Election Commission to take appropriate measures on the strength of the petitioners' representation made on February 6 to ensure that the election was held in a free and fair manner.

Former BJP minister Surjit Kumar Jyani held a press conference today and said it was the responsibility of the civil and police administrations to implement the directions of the court in letter and spirit. He alleged Congress and AAP workers, in the guise of farmers, had been harassing BJP candidates.

On the other hand, Keshav Goyal said of the total 56 booths set up in Fazilka, 28 had been declared as hypersensitive and 28 sensitive.

Fearing violence, nominees write to poll body

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, FEBRUARY 10

Candidates of the SAD and BJP in Muktsar district are fearing violence in the municipal council elections. The SAD has already boycotted the poll in Gidderbaha town.

Kanwarjit Singh Rozy Barkandi, SAD's Muktsar district president and

local MLA, said if the elections were held in a fair manner, the SAD would form the municipal committee. However, civil and police officers are working at the behest of the Congress, he alleged. Rajinder Ghagga, an SAD candidate in Malout, said, "Some people have torn my posters."

Meanwhile, Rajesh

Pathela Gora, president, BJP, Muktsar district, said, "We fear there will be violence. The police have become a mute spectator. Two days ago, two youths came to the election office of my father, who is a candidate, and threatened those sitting there. We have written to all senior officers and the State Election Commission

(SEC) in this regard." He said, "Happy Daur, our candidate in Malout, has complained that his election campaign material has been damaged. The situation is turning grim but no one is paying attention. I have requested senior police officers to control the situation or some major violence will occur on the election day."

Two killed in Moga clash, 3 held

MOGA, FEBRUARY 10

Two workers of the SAD were crushed to death under SUVs following a clash between Congress and Akali leaders during campaigning for the MC poll in Moga city on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, police officials said today.

Two others were also injured, but they are out of danger. The incident took place past midnight when workers of both parties confronted each other at ward No. 9 in Moga city. Both parties first verbally argued over allegations of distribution of liquor, but it later led to a bloody clash between them.

A person, identified as Harminder Singh Gill, died on the spot while Jagdeep Singh succumbed to injuries at the DMC, Ludhi-

ana, police officials said. SSP Harmanbir Singh Gill said a case under Sections 302, 323, 188 and 120B of the IPC had been registered against Congress leader Narinder Pal Singh Sidhu, husband of Congress candidate from ward No. 9, his son Jaslovepreet Singh, Jasmail Singh, Lally, Pamma, TT Sharma, Happy and a few

unknown persons. Three persons, namely Narinder Pal Singh Sidhu, Pamma and Jasmail Singh, alias Nikku, had been arrested, said DSP (city) Barjinder Singh Bhullar, adding two vehicles had also been impounded. SAD chief Sukhbir Badal alleged the State Election Commission had failed to ensure fair elections. —TNS



Harminder Singh Gill

Jagdeep Singh

Muktsar village to boycott all parties

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, FEBRUARY 10 Residents of Sheranwala village in the Lambi Assembly constituency have decided to boycott all political parties, saying the politicians had failed them in the ongoing agitation. Meanwhile, some posters in this regard have also been displayed in the village.

Amritpal Singh, a village resident, said, "The village residents don't want to create any law and order issue, thus they have decided to boycott all political parties. A large number of people have supported the decision of banning the entry of politicians."

BJP slapping false cases on protesters, stifling dissent: Cong

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 10

Reacting to BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh

blaming Capt Amarinder Singh for letting loose 'goondas' in the state to stifle the voice of the saffron party, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Sunil Jakhar today said such allegations did not behove the general secretary of a national party.

"They should remain in limits. It is strange that those who

slap false cases of sedition against farmers are complaining about their voice being stifled," he said.

Meanwhile, days after state AAP co-in charge Raghav Chadha targeted the Congress' alleged complicity in the passage of the Punjab Contract Farming Bill in 2013, asked him to get his facts corrected.

Coming in defence of the Chief Minister, Jakhar

said the Punjab Contract Farming Bill was passed in March 2013, by the then

SAD-BJP government and

it was the Congress that

had staged a walkout on

the issue and its nine

MLAs faced suspension and a police case.

Targeting the BJP in the same tone, Jakhar said senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia was a part of the SAD-BJP government when the contract farming legislation was passed.

Seeking an apology from Chadha for trying to defame Capt Amarinder Singh, the PPCC chief said the Congress had been completely in support of protecting the interest of the farming community.

PROTEST PEACEFULLY

PPCC president Sunil Jakhar on Wednesday said he did not favour violent protests by farmers against BJP leaders. Requesting farmers not to allow the BJP to defame the state, he said: "We are fighting the party's injustice. How can we oppose the BJP if we ourselves indulge in violence and get provoked by its leaders' statements?"

MLAs faced suspension and a police case.

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At Bathinda roadshow, AAP attacks Badals for 'backstabbing' people



AAP leader Raghav Chadha holds a roadshow in Bathinda. backstabbed the people of the state and they, along with their cronies, had filled their coffers by looting the property of the state.

"Even at this time, Harsimrat Badal, Bathinda MP and

Cabinet minister in the Modi government till a few days ago, and Bathinda MLA and Finance Minister Manpreet Badal did not bring any new project for the district," said Chadha. —TNS

CM has let loose 'goonda raj': Chugh

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 10 BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today said Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had let loose hordes of "goondas" in the state to stifle the voice of the BJP.

In a scathing attack on the Chief Minister, Chugh alleged Capt Amarinder had subverted all democratic norms and unleashed a reign of terror and violence in the state in the run-up to the municipal election.

He said the Congress had been promoting "goonda raj" in the state in the face of its bleak chances of winning the municipal polls. "The writing on the wall for Capt Amarinder is clear, so he is getting nervous and jit-

wiped out. Many Congress leaders in the past had such dreams in their eyes, but the BJP has only grown from strength to strength," he said.

Chugh lambasted the Congress government for not fulfilling the promises made to farmers in its election manifesto.

State BJP president Ashwani Sharma also accused the state government of using brute force and turning the entire electorate process of the MC elections into a "miserable" farce. He alleged the state machinery, especially the police, had been acting as a mute spectator even as the the ruling Congress was making a mockery of law and order.

He called the DGP a "spineless officer who has forgotten his duty".



Tarun Chugh

Chugh

Reacting to the CM's statement that the BJP

would be wiped out in the

wake of the farm laws,

Chugh said Capt

Amarinder's

wishful thinking had made him

blind to the ground realities.

"He is living in a

fool's paradise if he thinks

that the BJP could be

media and freedom of press. We consider it a continuation of repressive measures adopted against several senior journalists last week by filing sedition charges against them and also curbing free speech on Twitter and YouTube. Our organisation strongly condemns these raids as a serious attack on the online

ing extensively on the farmers' agitation for the past two months. BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikanal said: "Our organisation strongly condemns these raids as a serious attack on the online

Moga farmer dies of cardiac arrest at Singhu

Rauli village that falls under the Mehna police station. Darshan Singh was an active worker of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Kadian). His body will arrive at his native village after the post-mortem examination today. —TNS

Raid on news portal bid to curb free speech: BKU

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 10 The Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) has condemned the raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the office of online portal 'Newsclick' and the homes of its owner Prabir Purkayastha, editor Pranjal and human resources head Amit Chakravarty yesterday.

Asks Centre to stop 'intimidation' tactics

Newsclick has been providing a platform to leading investigative journalists like Pranjoy Guha Thakurta and video journalists Abhisar Sharma and P Sainath among others. It has also been report-

ing extensively on the farmers' agitation for the past two months. BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikanal said: "Our organisation strongly condemns these raids as a serious attack on the online

media and freedom of press. We consider it a continuation of repressive measures adopted against several senior journalists last week by filing sedition charges against them and also curbing free speech on Twitter and YouTube. Our organisation strongly condemns these raids as a serious attack on the online

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PSPCL faces losses as farmers 'refuse' to pay bills

Officials allege assault by defaulters | Power theft remains cause for concern



IN NEED OF FUNDS

The collection has declined due to the farmers' stir and power theft. We're educating farmers as paying bills is a must to meet our expenses. A Venk Prasad, PSPCL CHAIRMAN

majority of them were now reluctant to carry out raids against power theft and defaulters. "Many farmers own cars and are even holding functions but refuse to pay the power bills, claiming that they are busy with the agitation in Delhi. If our teams go to check their connections, they attack us,"

the PSPCL officials want security, there needs to be clear directions in writing from our department," claimed a DSP-level officer.

"The PSPCL has failed to plug loopholes in divisions, causing 60-70% loss against 12-15% in areas, including Bhikiwind, Patti, West Amritsar, Bhagta Bhai Ka and Bhagapurana. What is making matters worse is that the losses have started increasing in recent years. Huge losses result in increased tariffs and financial loss to the PSPCL," said Bhupinder Singh, retired deputy chief engineer, PSPCL.

"Power theft is estimated to cause a revenue loss of Rs 1,500 crore annually, which if saved can reduce the average tariff by 35-40 paisa per

unit in the state," reads a petition submitted by Bhupinder Singh to the PSERC, highlighting discrepancy between the audited power and the revenue account of the PSPCL.

PSPCL chairman-cum-managing director A Venk Prasad confirmed that the collection had declined due to the farmers' agitation and increased power theft incidents. "We are educating farmers as paying bills is mandatory to meet our expenditure. There were instances when even the local police didn't cooperate with us. But after the intervention of senior officials of the police and the PSPCL, security is being provided to our teams checking power theft," he added.

We can never do anything to

harm its dignity".

When Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi asked him to explain the allegation by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury that the BJP was behind the Republic Day violence while he (Bittu) was naming Yadav, the MP said it was because of association of Deep Sidhu (an accused in the January-26 Delhi violence) with BJP MP Sunny Deol. —TNS

Speaking during the motion of thanks on the President's Address amid the farmers' agitation, Congress Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu made some startling accusations, drawing instant criticism for Treasury benches

Bittu said: "(Activist) Yogendra Yadav is the one responsible for inciting farmers and perpetrating violent incidents on January 26." He also told the government that if "you catch him (Yogendra Yadav),

Mahapanchayat offarmers today

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 10
After Haryana, a mahapanchayat will be held in Punjab's Jagraon on Thursday.

The mahapanchayat is being organised by the Sanyukta Kisan Morcha. Kanwaljit Khanna of Inquilabi Kendra Punjab said the panchayat would be attended by all walks of life of society.

Farmers, during the panchayat labourers, employees and students will participate in the protest meeting. "This mahapanchayat is the first mega event in Punjab after farmers marched to Delhi," said Khanna.

Leaders from Delhi protests, including Balbir Rajewal, Nirbhay Singh Dhudike, Buta Singh Burjgill are expected to join the meeting. Mahapanchayats have been organised in support of farmers in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh so far. —TNS

R-Day violence: Another key accused in police net

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GAZIPUR, FEBRUARY 10
A day after the arrest of actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu, the Delhi Police nabbed another key accused Iqbal Singh from Hoshiarpur.

Iqbal was picked up by the Northern Range sleuths of the Special Cell in a late night operation.

Iqbal, who hails from Ludhiana, is a high-profile accused, who instigated the crowd and took part in the violence that marred the Republic Day 'kisan parade'.

In the aftermath of the violence, the Delhi Police had announced a cash reward of Rs 50,000 to anyone disclosing Iqbal's location, leading to his arrest.

According to Special Cell DCP Sanjeev Yadav, Iqbal

Charged with instigating crowd



Iqbal Singh (C) in custody of the Delhi Police. MUKESH AGGARWAL

gave a "provocative speech" and instigated the mob.

During the initial interro-

gation, Iqbal, who is a "katha vachak", said he was acting on his own. He was a regular visitor to the Singhu border and allegedly came with a mob for the January 26 parade in Delhi.

Iqbal is the fourth key accused nabbed by the Delhi Police in the last four days for his alleged role in the violence that resulted in the death of Navreet Singh and injuries to over 150 police personnel on January 26.

Deep Sidhu, who has since been sent to police custody till February 16, was picked up from Karnal on Monday.

Another accused Sukhvinder Singh, who was spotted at the Lahori Gate on Republic Day, was arrested from Chandigarh, while Sukhdev Singh was nabbed by the police on Sunday.

Entries invited for vigilance panel

MOGA, FEBRUARY 10

The government on Wednesday invited applications for the post of Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and two Commissioners for a term of five years to form the three-member Punjab State Vigilance Commission.

The move came nearly three months after issuing a notification regarding the Punjab State Vigilance Commission Act, 2020, to check corruption among public servants and bring in more transparency.

As per the state orders, the CVC will be appointed from among persons who had served as an HC judge or a senior officer in rank and pay scale of secretary-level officer in the Centre. The two vigilance Commissioners will be appointed from among officers of the All India Civil Services or Provincial/State Civil Services who had served as a civil servant. —TNS

Gangster brought on production warrant

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 10
seizure of five country-made pistols on Tuesday.

Jagdev Singh, alias Jagga, who was arrested from Lucknow yesterday, is likely to be produced before a local court tomorrow for police remand.

Gurpinder Singh, alias Baba, who has been arrested from Nanded in Maharashtra, was produced before a local court, and the CIA, Pathankot, took his police remand till February 13.

Gurpinder Singh, a native of Muktsar district, was accused under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Jakhar to lead protest against fuel price hike

ABO哈尔, FEBRUARY 10

The Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) will hold protests across the state on Thursday against hike in diesel, petrol and cooking gas prices.

PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar will lead the protest at the Maharaja Agrasen chowk, near Nehru Park, in his home town here at 11 am. Jakhar said the Centre was continuously increasing the prices of diesel, petrol and cooking gas, which had caused trouble to all sections of the society. He said the Centre's attitude was anti-people. —OC

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Covid vaccine being administered to a policeman. FILE PHOTO

Vaccine drive gains pace

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 10

A large number of healthcare workers are coming forward to get the jab, after February 19 was fixed as the last date for the Health Department officials to get the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Vini Mahajan, Chief Secretary, said many senior administrative and health officers were getting themselves vaccinated under the campaign.

In all, 13 DCs, 19 SSPs, 19 Civil Surgeons, and other prominent senior officers had been vaccinated, she said.

To date, 71,121 health workers and 17,350 frontline work-

ers have received the vaccine shot in the state.

Mahajan said with senior civil and police officers coming forward, the myths in the minds of people would be cleared.

With the confidence shown by senior officers regarding the vaccination, a positive environment had been created, and the pace of drive would pick up in the next few days, she said. —TNS

₹8.95 cr GST fraud unearthed, 1 held

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 10

Officers of the investigation wing, GST Department, today arrested Balwinder Singh of Mandi Gobindgarh for creating and operating bogus firms across states, including Punjab, Delhi and Rajasthan, and passing on fraudulent ITC to the tune of Rs 8.95 crore to various firms without payment of tax to the government.

An official spokesperson of the government, said an authorisation for the arrest of Balwinder and his son Prince Dhiman was issued by Commissioner, State Tax, under Section 69 of the GST Act.

The spokesperson said seizure operations were con-

ducted by the teams at multiple locations, including the accused's house, to gather evidence for establishing the modus operandi, which involved creating firms in states outside Punjab, dealing in iron scrap and finished goods, and thereafter passing the same to other firms created in own name or that of other persons and kin, and then forwarding to various beneficiaries in the state.

He said the department had got an alert about the accused after a firm (Suvidha Enterprises), operated by him, was cancelled suo moto last year for being non-existent at the place of business. —TNS

71,121 healthcare workers inoculated

ers have received the vaccine shot in the state.

Mahajan said with senior civil and police officers coming forward, the myths in the minds of people would be cleared.

With the confidence shown by senior officers regarding the vaccination, a positive environment had been created, and the pace of drive would pick up in the next few days, she said. —TNS

State: HARYANA District: KURUKSHETRA

S. Survey/PLOT No. Type of Land

Nature of Land

Area (In Local Unit)

Area (in Hectare)

Taluk: Shahabad

Village: Kakra Shahabad

1 15//16/2min Private Agriculture 0.0065000(Hectare) 0.0065000

2 15//24min Private Agriculture 0.0396000(Hectare) 0.0396000

3 15//25min Private Agriculture 0.0122000(Hectare) 0.0122000

4 24//11/1min Private Agriculture 0.0011000(Hectare) 0.0011000

5 24//11/2min Private Agriculture 0.0014800(Hectare) 0.0014800

6 24//12min Private Agriculture 0.1170000(Hectare) 0.1170000

7 24//13min Private Agriculture 0.0538000(Hectare) 0.0538000

8 24//19/1/1min Private Agriculture 0.0017000(Hectare) 0.0017000

9 24//20/1min Private Agriculture 0.0041000(Hectare) 0.0041000

10 24//3/1min Private Agriculture 0.0379000(Hectare) 0.0379000

11 24//3/2min Private Agriculture 0.0935000(Hectare) 0.0935000

12 24//4min Private Agriculture 0.0798000(Hectare) 0.0798000

13 24//5min Private Agriculture 0.0539000(Hectare) 0.0539000

14 24//7min Private Agriculture 0.0700000(Hectare) 0.0700000

15 24//8min Private Agriculture 0.1245000(Hectare) 0.1245000

16 24//9min Private Agriculture 0.0944000(Hectare) 0.0944000

17 7//25/2min Private Agriculture 0.0016000(Hectare) 0.0016000

18 7//25/3min Private Agriculture 0.0033000(Hectare) 0.0033000

19 8//21min Private Agriculture 0.0075000(Hectare) 0.0075000

Village: Landi

1 59//13/1min Private Agriculture 0.0029000(Hectare) 0.0029000

2 59//13/2min Private Agriculture 0.0097000(Hectare) 0.0097000

Total 0.8165 0.8165

Entries invited for vigilance panel

MOGA, FEBRUARY 10

The government on Wednesday invited applications for the post of Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and two Commissioners for a term of five years to form the three-member Punjab State Vigilance Commission.

The move came nearly three months after issuing a notification regarding the Punjab State Vigilance Commission Act, 2020, to check corruption among public servants and bring in more transparency.

As per the state orders, the CVC will be appointed from among persons who had served as an HC judge or a senior officer in rank and pay scale of secretary-level officer in the Centre. The two vigilance Commissioners will be appointed from among officers of the All India Civil Services or Provincial/State Civil Services who had served as a civil servant. —TNS

ग्रामीण गांधीनी विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
GOVT. OF INDIA

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Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.</

CLASSIFIEDS**SITUATION VACANT**

Requirement staff IELTS trainers, English teacher, Computer and Receptionist at Pahkhowal, Distt. Ludhiana, 78887-11535, 94644-75860. (CL20095032)

Mata Gujri Institute of Nursing, Village Mehndupur, PO Adampur, Distt. Jalandhar. Applications are invited to the following posts - 1. Principal cum Professor, 2. Vice Principal cum Professor, 3. Clinical Instructors. Contact immediately 95014-00883, 98157-00883. Email: mgimadmpur@gmail.com (CL20095042)

Sunrise Convent International School, Mananahana (Kotfatah) Hoshiarpur. Written Test: Saturday, February 20th, 2021. Timings: 9:30 a.m. sharp at Kamal Hotel, Mahipur N.TT, PRT, TGT, PGT, Fine Art Teachers are required for all subjects. Send your resume on Email: scint.kot@gmail.com before 18 February, 2021. Salary negotiable. Querries: 94659-40198. Principal. (CL20094980)

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

New Lifeline Hospital, Zirakpur announces extra Cardiopulmonary Oxygenation (ECMO) facility. ECMO is a true life saver. ECMO is the ultimate life support system for heart, lung and liver failure patients. Many precious lives can be saved both in adults and children. 98141-04203. (CL20094974)

BUSINESS

Running profitable unit manufacturing injection molds, blow molds with inhouse VMC, EDM Machines for sale in Mohali. 88378-54128. (CL20094882)

LOST & FOUND

Lost original regular letter of allotment NO HSIDC/EO 354 dated 22.04.1994 and original conveyance deed of property B-39 Udyog Vihar Phase 5, Gurgaon. Kindly contact: 98763-12345. (CL20095061)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Asha Mallick w/o Late Sh. Om Prakash Mallick r/o Flat no-7, Ground Floor, Green City, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali, Punjab-14063 declare that my son Madhukar Mallick and his wife Payal Mallick are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/ immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL20094996)

I, Amarjeet Kaur w/o Surjit Singh r/o Village Baranda, P.O Garhwal, Teh. Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, presently residing at C/O 99 APO, Tamang, Arunachal Pradesh, declare that in husband service record, my date of birth is wrongly mentioned 15.07.1979 instead of correct date 20.08.1976. Please correct it. (CL20094556)

I, Raj Manpreet Kaur w/o Gurjinder Singh Chatha r/o # 29-D, Deelite Colony, Patiala, have changed my name to Raj Manpreet Kaur Chatha. (CL20094767)

I, Harjot Kaur Sagg w/o Sh. Manav Gupta r/o H.No.46872, Mishri Bazar, Patiala, have changed my name to Harjot Gupta. (CL20094859)

I, Sharanjeet Kaur W/o Baltej Singh Sidhu R/o Kalyan Sukha (Bathinda), have changed my name as Sharanjeet Kaur Sidhu. (CL20094914)

I, Kuldip Singh S/o Pala Singh Village Gurdhanpur (Fatehgarh Sahib), have changed my name to Kuldip Singh. (CL20094919)

I, Anshul Gupta S/o Rajinder Gupta R/o 24, Kasturba colony, Ambala Cantt have changed my name to Anshul Singla. Concerned note. (CL20094940)

I, Aanchal Gupta D/o Naval Kishore Gupta R/o 24, Kasturba colony Ambala Cantt, have changed my name to Aanchal Singla W/o Anshul Singla after marriage. Concerned note. (CL20094943)

I, Neeta Devi W/o Prince Rana R/o H.No. B21/ 90, Mohalla Sukhiabadi, near Guru Ravidas Mandir, Hoshiarpur (Punjab), have changed my name from Neeta Devi to Neeta Rana Vide Affidavit No. AH 088565 dated 10.02.2021 before Notary Public, Hoshiarpur (Punjab). (CL20094962)

I, Ani Kumar s/o Sobha Ram village Kishanpara (Fatehgarh Sahib), have changed my name to Amandeep Singh. (CL20094983)

I, Bachan Lal S/o Ujjagar Mal R/o Mohalla Dhamarpura Qadian, Tehsil Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab, India that I have changed my minor daughter name from Divanshi to Divanshi Kaur. Please concerned note. (CL20094898)

I, Sonia W/o Manveer Singh, Kalyan Nagar, Sirsa, have changed my name to Sonia Rani. (CL20094991)

I, No. JC-748229H Sub Subhash Chand S/o Late Sh. Ram Singh Rana R/o Village Bhagour, PO Ghallour, Tehsil Jawalmukhi, Distt. Kangra (HP) declare that my son's name in my Army record wrongly entered as Rajiv Rana. Whereas his correct name is Rajesh Singh. Concerned note it. (CL20095043)

I, Maninder Singh Chandok s/o Sh. Ranjeet Singh r/o # 460, Phase 6, Mohali, have changed my name from Maninder Singh Chandok to Maninder Singh. (CL20095047)

I, Bablu s/o Jatlu Rai r/o House No. 67, Sector-56, Chandigarh have changed my name from Bablu to Bablu Rai. (CL20095063)

DISCLAIMER

"The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

MATRIMONIAL**KHATRI/ARORA**

Khatri qualified boy 33 years, 5'10", working MNC Chandigarh, 13+, local general caste. 0161-4046388, 97797-42288. (CL20095067)

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sh. Ranjan Kumar Khullar
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court,
Garhshankar.

Harijinder Kaur aged about 30 years w/o Harish Kumar d/o Budh Singh r/o VPO Saini Khurd now residing at VIA XXXX 25 April Pugnolo Cella Datti (CR) Italy.

....Petitioner

Versus
Harish Kumar aged about 28 years s/o Late Kamal Kishore VPO Bassi Kalan Tehsil and Distt. Hoshiarpur now residing at VIA Podesta, 31 26011-Casalbutano ed Unity (CR) Italy.

....Respondent

Petition U/S 13 of Hindu Marriage Act 1955 (as amended up to date) for dissolution of the marriage by a decree of divorce

CNR No.: PBHOH-000546-2019

Next Date: 06.03.2021

Publication issued to: Harish Kumar aged about 28 years s/o Late Kamal Kishore VPO Bassi Kalan Tehsil and Distt. Hoshiarpur now residing at VIA Podesta, 31 26011-Casalbutano ed Unity (CR) Italy.

In above titled case, the defendant(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 06.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur Dated, this day of 02.02.2021.

Sd/-

Additional Principal Judge
Family Court,
Garhshankar.
CL20094926

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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E-mail at

classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342

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(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Sh. Kushal Singla

Civil Judge,

(Junior Division),

Chandigarh.

Bank of Baroda

Versus

M/s Shree Ganesh Steel and Building Material

CNR No.:

CHCH02-003809-2019

Next Date: 08.03.2021

Publication issued to:

1. M/s Shree Ganesh Steel and Building Material, Landran Road, Near Royal Palace, Kharar, Distt. Mohali through its proprietor Sonia Kaushal.

2. Sonia Kaushal, Proprietor of M/s Shree Ganesh Steel & Building, H.No. 4543, Ward No. 13, Kharar, Punjab.

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 08.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh

Dated, this day of 21.01.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge,

(Junior Division),

CL20094999 Chandigarh.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Sh. Kushal Singla

Civil Judge Jr. Divn., Chandigarh.

Bank of Baroda

Versus

M/s P.R. International

CNR No.: CHCH02-003808-2019

Next Date: 08.03.2021

Publication issued to:

M/s P.R. International, 1. SCO No. 373-374, Sector 35-C, Chandigarh, IIInd 2109, Sector-19-C, Chandigarh, IIIrd Shop No. 11, Star Complex, Village Butrela, Chandigarh.

2. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Partner of M/s P.R. International R/o H.No. 870, Block-K, Burail Labour Colony No. 5, Sector 45, Chandigarh.

3. Ravinder Singh Partner of M/s P.R. International R/o 299/3, Block K, Burail Labour Colony No. 5, Sector 45, Chandigarh.

4. Robby Bath Partner of M/s P.R. International R/o 3012, Block K, Burail Labour Colony No. 5, Sector 44-D, Chandigarh.

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 08.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh

Dated, this day of 21.01.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge, Jr. Divn.,

CL20095002 Chandigarh.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

a. All interested authorized bidders may take part in the auction after depositing Rs.10,000/- earnest money, which will be refunded in respect of unsuccessful bidders and adjusted for successful bidder after finalization of auction.

b. Bidders having PAN CARD will only be allowed to participate in the auction.

c. All bidders will get their name registered with the board of officers at least one hour before.

d. The successful bidder will have to pay 100% bid amount by cheque/cash pay immediately on the spot after the auction is over. GST as applicable shall be charged extra. The successful bidder will have to collect / lift the stores at their own arrangement as it is where basis as soon as auction is over, on the same day itself.

e. In case the successful bidder does not lift/collect the auctioned stores on the same day from the campus his earnest money will be forfeited.

f. The Commandant 136 Bn BSF reserves the right to accept/reject any bid without assigning any reason and may also postpone or adjourn the date and time of auction without assigning any reason.

g. The stores will be auctioned "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"

h. Other terms and condition if any shall be announced at the time of auction.

i. No transporting will be provided by this unit to carry the auctioned stores.

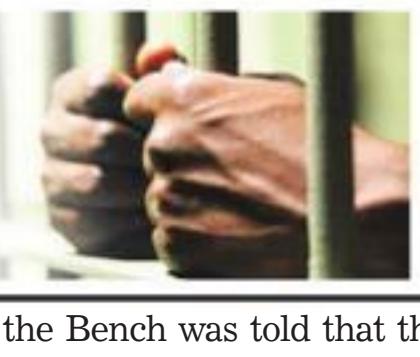
**Sd/- For Commandant
136 Bn BSF**

Need mechanism to dispose of inmates' parole pleas, says HC

Seeks explanation on delay in considering petitioner's application

THE CASE

The direction came after the Bench was told that the petitioner-inmate was aggrieved by the delay in deciding his parole plea.



the authorities concerned for almost two months now.

Taking up the petition filed by Rajiv Singh alias Raja through videoconferencing, the Division Bench of Justice Rajan Gupta and Justice Karamjit Singh asked the counsel appearing for the State to seek instructions in the matter from the Additional Chief Secretary (Homes) and the Director-General of Police (Prisons).

Charuni: SKM has no role in Tikait's October 2 deadline

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



FARMERS' DISALLOW HALF-NAKED MARCH

Jhajjar: Farmer organisations Wednesday decided not to allow youths to take out half-naked protest at Tikri border against the three farm laws. Youths daily organise such march at the main protest site to mark their protest. "The decision has been taken keeping the cold weather conditions in mind and protecting them as the agitation is likely to go on for long," said a farmer leader, adding the number of farmers' death due to cold at Tikri and Singhu borders was increasing with each passing day. TNS

laws to benefit corporate houses, and not the farm laws. These legislations will benefit a few people and not the farmers," the BKU chief added.

AMBALA, FEBRUARY 10 Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni has said the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has no role in the announcement made by farmer leader Rakesh Tikait regarding the October 2 deadline to repeal the three farm laws.

"The SKM has not taken any decision regarding the October 2 deadline to repeal the laws. We will continue to protest until the farm laws are revoked," he told the media at the Shambhu toll plaza here today.

Charuni further said, "The agitation is going in the right direction. There are no factions and we all are fighting together. The Centre has no intention to repeal the laws. It is of the view that the agitation will come to an end automatically, but the Centre is mistaken."

He made it clear there was no time limit for the agitation. "The Centre has introduced agri-business

for availing a term loan of Rs 113.03 crore by Hafed from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to construct 2.72 lakh MT capacity warehouses at 16 locations in eight districts.

The warehouses will be constructed at Bhuna, Utkana and Hobli (Fatehabad), Barwala (Hisar), Kholawas and Bawani Kheri (Bhiwani), Kharia and Panniwala Mota (Sirsia), Indri,

Manchuri and Nissing (Karnal), Ladwa and Ajrana Kalan (Kurukshetra), Nasirpur (Ambala) and Sevi (Palwal).

The Council of Ministers has approved an amendment to Section 7(2) of the Haryana Mechanical Vehicle (Levy of Tolls) Act, 1996-Bill, 2021.

The Cabinet has given nod to a proposal of the Urban Local Bodies Department for the transfer of 48 bighas and 1

Toll on the Ateli-Kheri road in Mahendragarh discontinued

HAFED to construct 16 warehouses in eight districts

Pension for staff of the Haryana Rural Development Fund Administration Board

Land of MC, Narnaul, to be transferred to Police Dept

among the various projects, the 1.5-km link road connecting Unispur village to Bakipur village in Karnal district will be constructed at a cost of Rs 55.47 lakh

In Sirsa district, 4.22-km road linking Tarkanwali to Makhosarani will be built for Rs 170 lakh, while a 81-km Tarkanwali-Gigaranji road will be constructed for Rs 155 lakh

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The warehouses will be constructed at Bhuna, Utkana and Hobli (Fatehabad), Barwala (Hisar), Kholawas and Bawani Kheri (Bhiwani), Kharia and Panniwala Mota (Sirsia), Indri,

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The warehouses

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Covid probe

WHO must provide definitive answers

EVEN more than a year after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has claimed over 23 lakh lives so far across the globe, we are none the wiser about the origins of the novel coronavirus. Wrapping up its nearly four-week-long visit to Wuhan, a team of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has dismissed as 'unlikely' the theory that the virus leaked from a lab in the Chinese city where the first cases were detected. According to the team members, the virus was 'most likely' to have been transmitted from an animal to humans. The findings, though tentative, seem to buttress the Chinese government's protestations of innocence. Repeatedly accused by the US and other countries of covering up and not sharing information about the virus with the world, China has not only been denying any wrongdoing but also claiming that the virus may have originated in Europe or the US.

It was only last month that the WHO team, assisted by Chinese scientists, managed to land in Wuhan after several months of negotiations. The inordinate delay in initiating the probe rightly drew flak from the international community. America, the country worst affected by the pandemic, has announced to scrutinise the WHO report, while avoiding any conclusive comment on whether the experts received 'full cooperation' from China or not.

Transparency is a prerequisite for this investigation as the entire world is looking to the WHO to provide definitive answers. China's role has apparently been dubious in more ways than one. India, which has lost more than 1.55 lakh of its citizens to Covid-19, is also upset about Beijing's recent efforts to belittle New Delhi's vaccine diplomacy, besides the supply of allegedly faulty rapid testing kits and substandard PPE (personal protective equipment) last year. With the pandemic far from over, China's culpability or otherwise must be established beyond any doubt, and that too at the earliest. Getting to the bottom of the matter is also critical to help humankind prepare itself better for — or even prevent — such biological catastrophes.

Outrage in Lahaul-Spiti

Chamoli tragedy sparks protests over power projects

THE Uttarakhand flash flood disaster has given rise to concerns over hydel power projects in another hill state, Himachal Pradesh, where residents of Lahaul-Spiti are protesting against their construction in the ecologically fragile Chenab river basin. A panchayat meeting was held after the Chamoli mishap, with locals passing a resolution against the proposed projects and chalking out a campaign to spread awareness about their ill-effects. There have also been allegations that the projects are being set up indiscriminately at the expense of the environment.

Reconciling environmental concerns with development goals has always been a major challenge. The hill states, with their unique terrain, are more susceptible to natural disasters because of the geological processes involved. Landslides and cloudbursts take place with regularity. Therefore, ensuring growth and economic development in remote and less accessible areas have always been fraught with risks. Studies have shown that in Himachal, the count of glacial lakes is increasing downstream of the Sutlej, along which are located some of the biggest hydel power projects. Himachal has seen flash floods in the Sutlej and the formation of a lake in the Spiti river basin. Considering the limited capacity of the dams to hold water, the threat only gets aggravated. Though the state recently saw the completion of the Atal Tunnel, an engineering marvel of great strategic significance, a similar approach is needed for other projects too.

Natural disasters can strike despite the best of efforts, but preparedness can help minimise the damage. Governments have to be cautious in allocating power projects and also ensure constant monitoring of glaciers with plans for early warning and evacuation in place. Climate change is a major worry causing as it does glacial melts resulting in massive water discharge in the rivers. With the hill states also being of strategic importance, ensuring proper management of water resources is important because of implications from economic, general well-being and security perspectives. Water sustains the ecosystem and its careful regulation is needed to curb natural disasters.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

No price is too low for a bear or too high for a bull. — Proverb

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1921

THE DUKE'S SPEECH.

PERHAPS if the circumstances of the case had not been so extraordinary, the speech of the Duke of Connaught at the opening of the Indian Legislature would have met with a different reception to what we are constrained to say will be accorded to it by all patriotic, self-respecting Indians. Judged by the ordinary and conventional test, the speech was, indeed, a remarkable performance. Perhaps if it had been delivered to a similar gathering a decade or even four years ago, it would have been acclaimed from one end of the country to the other as a pronouncement of high political value and dominated by far-seeing statesmanship. Let us note in passing some of the more sonorous periods in the speech. To begin with, we have in the royal message, embodied in the speech, for the first time in British Indian history, the recognition of India's demand for and India's claim to Swaraj. "For years", says His Majesty, "it may be for generations, patriotic and loyal Indians have dreamed of Swaraj for their motherland. To-day you have the beginnings of Swaraj within my Empire and the widest scope and ample opportunity for progress to the liberty which my other dominions enjoy." Here in the adoption by His Majesty of the very phrase by which the Congress has now described the goal of India we have at once a recognition of "the big meeting" and a rebuke to those who have been telling us that the demand for Swaraj and indulgence in treason are convertible terms. We have the statement both by His Excellency the Viceroy and His Royal Highness the Duke that "the principle of autocracy has all been abandoned," that its retention would not only "have been incompatible with that contentment which had been declared by her Late Majesty Queen Victoria to be the aim of British rule" but "would have been inconsistent with the aspirations of the Indian people".

A false sense of exuberance

Despite the uptick in indices, a new growth phase is not round the corner



SUBIR ROY

SENIOR ECONOMIC ANALYST

INDIA'S stock market has given the Union Budget a spectacular thumbs up, far different from what many commentators and most households (according to a CMIE survey) have had to say. Since the presentation of the Budget, in one week the stock market indices have gone up by around 10 per cent. Irrespective of what happens thereafter, this needs explaining.

Since the Budget did not set out to impart a stimulus to economic activity, and instead concentrated on upping investment, foremost in infrastructure which takes time to have an impact, what can be the reason for stock market enthusiasm?

Was the market behaving rational or was it in the grip of irrational exuberance? Or was it simply putting the excess liquidity created by the central bank to fight the lockdown-induced downturn into stocks?

Several rational explanations have been put forward. Post lockdown, the economy has quickly picked up steam and government sources are foreseeing a V-shaped recovery in moving from a GDP contraction of around 7 per cent in the current fiscal (2020-21) to a growth of 11 per cent in the coming year (2021-22).

There is a clear decline in coronavirus infections, with no sign of a national second wave. Plus, the population is being rapidly vaccinated. That, and a degree of immunity given to a significant section of the population by the virus are causing some experts to foresee the entire population acquiring herd immunity.

The global economic outlook also seems positive with a sensible US President Biden replacing unpre-



RIDING THE WAVE: Post lockdown, the economy has quickly picked up steam and government sources are foreseeing a V-shaped recovery. REUTERS

The overall impression is that the economy is not passing through an inflection point on its way to graduating to a superior growth phase. The most recent rise is merely episodic or an attempt to self-correct.

dictable President Trump. Nearer home, the other Asian economies seem buoyant after having weathered the pandemic better than most western countries.

But a rational explanation (as opposed to irrational exuberance) is available if we look at not just the behaviour of the indices in the immediate past but take a longer-term view. If we look at where the market was a year ago, then the broad trend would take it close to where it was at the end of the post Budget first week. May be a bit over the top but by only a little.

A shorter-term view gives us the same picture. There was a big rise in the latter part of January, around the third week, after which there was a big fall till the end of the month. So we can argue that the market is simply correcting itself and more or less getting back to trend.

The overall impression that we get out of all this is that the economy is not passing through an

inflection point on its way to graduating to a new superior growth phase. The most recent indices rise is merely episodic or an attempt to self-correct.

If the market is not in the grip of irrationality, where does it leave the average investor who, as a rule, seeks to put a fifth of his savings in stocks in order to take a slight bearable risk for a higher return than what assured fixed income channels offer?

The cardinal rule that holds for all time is, don't be swayed by the immediate and, most importantly, don't try to second-guess the market, don't try to get in at a trough and get out at a peak so as to maximise gains. High stock values may be tempting but there is no knowing that they will go higher still. In fact, they may go any which way at a time of slight volatility, like the present.

The answer to the question, when does one get in, is to change the question to, where does one get in. Don't look at the current value so much as

the stock itself. Is the company widely considered by the analysts' community to be steadily turning in healthy numbers?

Perhaps most importantly, seek to find an answer to the question as to where the company will be in five to 10 years. The answer lies all around us. Which are the most solid items of popular consumption? Does it look as if the public is satisfied with the value it is getting and there is considerable likelihood that it will continue to deliver that value for a good bit of time to come? Do Maruti Suzuki cars, Titan watches and wearables look likely to enjoy the consumer's support for quite some time to come? If so, get into that stock and don't look at its price for a good year or so. Don't buy or sell at close intervals if you are not a professional investor.

All rules about investing have exceptions. Around a decade and a half ago, consumers and investors would have given the Tata Steel stock a resounding thumbs up as it was going places internationally, buying up a bit of what was British Steel, the global grandfather of the industry. But look at what kind of returns it has given since then.

Or look at ITC. It is going great guns in successfully diversifying — its Aashirvaad atta is everywhere. But most of ITC's profits come from cigarettes and what if governments start banning smoking for simply being too injurious to health. Or ethically, should you make money out of people's bad habits?

To get back to where we started, does one get into buying stocks right now or does one start selling? My personal sense is the Budget is a disappointment. Many poor people remain hungry and many among them are still without a job. It will take the economy quite some time to settle down to pre-demonetisation growth rates. So despite the indices' uptick, a new growth phase is not round the corner. If time tells you I was wrong, then you will know why I never became a professional investment adviser!

The parental instinct

RAMA KASHYAP

I VEHMENTLY deny being a helicopter mother. I have neither hovered over my children, nor followed them like a shadow. I am not a control freak. I have given enough freedom to my children to charter their own course, at least this is what I perceive myself to be. I may not be a mother rooted in paranoia, but to say that I have not been anxious about my children will be a gross lie. It is natural for a mother to feel concerned about the well-being of her children and to keep tabs on their whereabouts, friends and activities.

As long as my children were young, they did not mind my parental care, protection and instruction, but the equation start-

ed changing as they entered adolescence. They started resenting being monitored and hated to give me updates. Any counsel was unsolicited advice, an infringement of their space. Though my children remained well-behaved, there were times when I had to face sullen, even deceitful teens.

I recall an incident dating back to the time when call rates were high and even the SMS was chargeable.

While glancing over the mobile bill of my son, an engineering student, I got alarmed finding most messages directed to a particular number.

Instinctively, I dialled the number.

On the other side was Sid, my son's best friend. Confused, I disconnected the call.

Within a minute, my son called back complaining, "Mamma, why did

you call Sid? You are spying on me."

And that confirmed my doubt. Actually, it was not Sid's number but that of a lovely girl who later became my daughter-in-law. Let me now share what was going on behind the scenes. They were both hanging out with their friends. The moment our landline number flashed on her mobile, she handed the phone to their common friend. In this one-upmanship, sometimes I won, sometimes I lost.

Parents of all generations keep an eye on their offspring. We resented being monitored, but now that we are parents, we tend to do the same, rather more invasively. Equipped with technology, we are in a position to keep constant tabs which they hate. I remember my college-

going son had stored my number as 'Hai Ram'. How fed up he must have been with my frequent calls!

Now, both my sons are happily married, staying in different cities, the elder one in another country. But at times, I find myself asking silly questions such as whether they have taken their meals, what they have eaten. Sitting thousands of miles away, my husband and I insist that they post their tour itinerary every time they go out.

Well, I insist I am not a paranoid mother, but it is also true that I can't get over the instinct of feeling concerned about the well-being of my children even though they are grown-ups, leading independent lives. The fact is, no matter the age, a child remains a child in the eyes of the parent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tears and poetry

Seeing tears in the eyes of PM Modi and Ghulam Nabi Azad at the end of the latter's term in the Rajya Sabha inspires confidence in democratic norms and etiquette still being practised. That both lavished praise on each other for their qualities and contribution to the cause of democracy makes one wonder why such courtesies are reserved only for farewells. The treasury and the opposition benches can be nice to each other instead of resorting to loud-mouthed invectives. The liberal use of poetry and Urdu couplets at such critical times can soothe wounds and personal hurts. There is a lesson to be learnt by the warring spokespersons of political parties on television channels.

AMRITLAL MADAN, KAITHAL

Not a hero

Deep Sidhu got arrested for violence at Red Fort on Republic Day. This arrest has made him a 'hero'. I am staggered by the fact that if anyone from the Sikh religion dares to speak against him, he/she is being called 'kaum da gaddar', in the same way as people in power label some people as anti-nationals who dare to criticise

them. People are justifying his act as 'heroic'. The main focus, which should be on the demand to repeal the farm laws, is being diverted to his arrest. When people like him are referred to as 'heroes', the State gets the chance to colour the entire movement as that of a particular religion.

RASHPINDER SINGH, MANSA

All about trust

Though the Prime Minister has assured that the Bills are advantageous for farmers, the latter are not convinced. In a state where the MSP is still not being given at the ground level, how can they be certain that the newly introduced market will give them the basic price? The farmers are not in a state of mind to give credence to the verbal expression for the guarantee of MSP. They want a law that assures MSP. The PM should have a direct conversation with them to gain their trust.

ABHISHEK GROVER, BATHINDA

Dangerous old dams

There was recently a deluge in Uttarakhand, which created havoc in the area. Some experts termed it to be a natural calamity while others said it was manmade. This issue is debatable, despite having advanced technology and satellite

images to ascertain the facts. But another danger is lurking. Most of our dams are now more than 50 years old. We should take measures in advance as any concrete building or fortification can withstand the vagaries of nature for a limited time period.

RAJESH GOYAL, BY MAIL

Toying with nature

Refer to 'Himalayan tragedy'; nature's fury has time and again warned against the perils of climate change, but we have failed to mend our ways. Retreating of glaciers owing to climate change is a recurring phenomenon. Excessive tapping of river water for hydel projects poses a threat to the natural ecosystem, especially in such fragile Himalayan zones. The root of the problem lies in the construction of too many projects in the eco-sensitive zones, despite the 2013 ruling of the SC. Focus must be on sustainable development in order to make the planet liveable for future generations.

VIJAY SINGH ADHIKARI, NAINITAL

Reverse the damage

Unbridled construction has to be stopped. We are not apart from nature, but are a part of nature and

our life support system depends on the safety of our environment. Any further disturbance in the already fragile ecosystem of these mountains will have far-reaching implications on our existence. There is no point going to the moon, if we're unable to avert such incidents. We can still reverse the harm we have done to our hills. Hopefully, we will take necessary corrective and proactive steps to leave a good legacy for our generations to come.

K KUMAR, PANCHKULA

PGI registration

The tele-consultation timings for registration at the OPD of the cardiology department at the PGI, Chandigarh, is only from 8 am to 9.30 am. Since there is only one telephone line for the purpose, it becomes very difficult to get oneself registered. Further, each unit functions twice a week. If one is unable to get registered on a particular day, one is forced to wait for next week. The number of telephone lines should be increased, so that patients can get the benefit of this facility. Also, registration should be done in two shifts, morning and afternoon, to cope with the rush of patients.

BALBIR SINGH BATRA, MOHALI

Need a reality check on China's designs



MAROOF RAZA

STRATEGIC AFFAIRS ANALYST

THE Chinese army is there to stay in Aksai Chin. This reality had become known to our leadership in the 1950s and so it is now — though admitting this fact will be seen as a mark of defeat — and hence the claims and counter-claims, even when the reports about China ramping up its military capabilities and infrastructure in Tibet continue to appear in the Indian media. The Chinese are past masters at giving assurances and then doing another thing on the ground. No wonder that our External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had recently stated that "significantly, to date, we have yet to receive a credible explanation for the change in China's stance or reasons for massing troops in border areas". Furthermore, his comments at Vijayawada (as reported in the print media) indicated that not only had Chinese actions shown 'disregard' for the commitment to minimise troop levels, but also 'a willingness to breach peace and tranquillity'.

The reason why China has resorted to this build-up, and would stay there as long as it takes, hasn't been lost on the policy-makers at South Block. Thus, Jaishankar has said, "We know the reason why China amassed troops

at the border and breached peace."

The reasons lie in the pages of Sino-Indian history that show why an acceptable settlement is still a far cry, despite the Sino-Indian 'agreements' signed in 1993, 1996, 2005 and 2013. These did provide a clear direction, if there was a sincere desire to settle this long-standing issue. But in some ways, it is like the India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir. Neither side can be seen to be giving in, with so much at stake for their political leadership. For China, there is Mao Zedong's vision that saw Tibet as the palm of its right hand and Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (earlier NEFA) as its five fingers that China has to 'liberate'. For India, it meant accepting the Chinese claims — as suggested by China's Zhou Enlai in 1959 and 1960 — which would lead to charges of 'horse trading', as Nehru had put it, since all the territory that China claimed, "whether Arunachal Pradesh in the east or Aksai Chin in the west, were Indian," states Zorawar Daulet Singh in his recent book, *Power Shift: India-China relations in a Multipolar World*. For many years even after Nehru had passed away, Indian diplomats were loyally hanging on to his legacy. This stand in due course has become an Indian article of faith.

Thus, despite the much publicised meetings between the leaders of India and China — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CPC Chairman Xi Jinping — who had first engaged in 2014, and then following the standoff over Doklam in 2017, over structured summits at Wuhan in 2018 and then at Marmallapuram, near Chennai, in 2019, there were major Chinese intrusions across the LAC in 2014



and then in 2020. One reason was that the directions to their respective militaries, to have better and more frequent communication and strengthen the existing confidence building measures (CBMs), so that the special representative (SR) could "seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement to the border question", were quite vague.

And so, there was room for (mis)interpretation leading to transgressions by troops on either side of the LAC, whenever the opportunity arose. But these were generally by patrols along the LAC or the McMahon Line, and were rarely entrenched intrusions, barring a few like those in 2013, in eastern Ladakh, before April 2020.

However, the absence of political drive to find a solution over the boundary dis-

putes, especially after the 2013 Chinese intrusions in east Ladakh, and the 2017 Doklam stand-off, and a Chinese desire to position oneself at an advantage became more noticeable, with 'nearly 75 per cent of the transgressions' by Chinese troops taking place across the LAC, and only 20 per cent in India's eastern front along Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. This makes it apparent that for the Chinese, the Aksai Chin area was 'a valued piece of real estate', and the Ladakh crisis could thus be explained as a 'belated reassertion of China's original claims over the area'.

What had brought matters to a head in 2020 — as China would've seen it — were several actions initiated by India in recent years. First, India's effort to improve infrastructure — roads,

bridges, tunnels and communication arteries — at various points along the Sino-Indian boundary. For years after the 1962 conflict, India hadn't developed these for fear that better roads from the Himalayas onto the plains would aid an invading Chinese force to roll down! Then in July 2013, a decision was taken to raise a strike corps for the Indian Army in the eastern sector, with offensive (defence) capabilities to monitor China's activities and have acclimated Army units for rapid responses. But it was finally the Modi government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution — that gave J&K special status — and the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh, and the call thereafter "to liberate 38,000 square kilometres of Aksai Chin" by no less than

the Home Minister that contributed to China's aggressive behaviour. These issues have been brought out in detail in essays in a recent book compiled by bureaucrat-turned-academic Shakti Singh, *One Mountain Two Tigers*.

With talks leading nowhere, in early 2020, the Chinese army dramatically increased its presence in Aksai Chin, along the LAC as the snow melted, which India mistook as military exercises, even though there were substantially larger elements of tanks and artillery. Thereafter, Beijing made its intentions known. It was in no mood to pull back its army, and as it did in 1959-60, China then conveyed to New Delhi, that a solution to the latest boundary tensions could be found around the Chinese proposals of 1959. Is it time, therefore, for India to do a reality check?

AT ODDS: China has been alarmed at the thrust laid by India in areas over which it claims hegemony. PTI

US policy may help reinforce ASEAN centrality



GURJOT SINGH

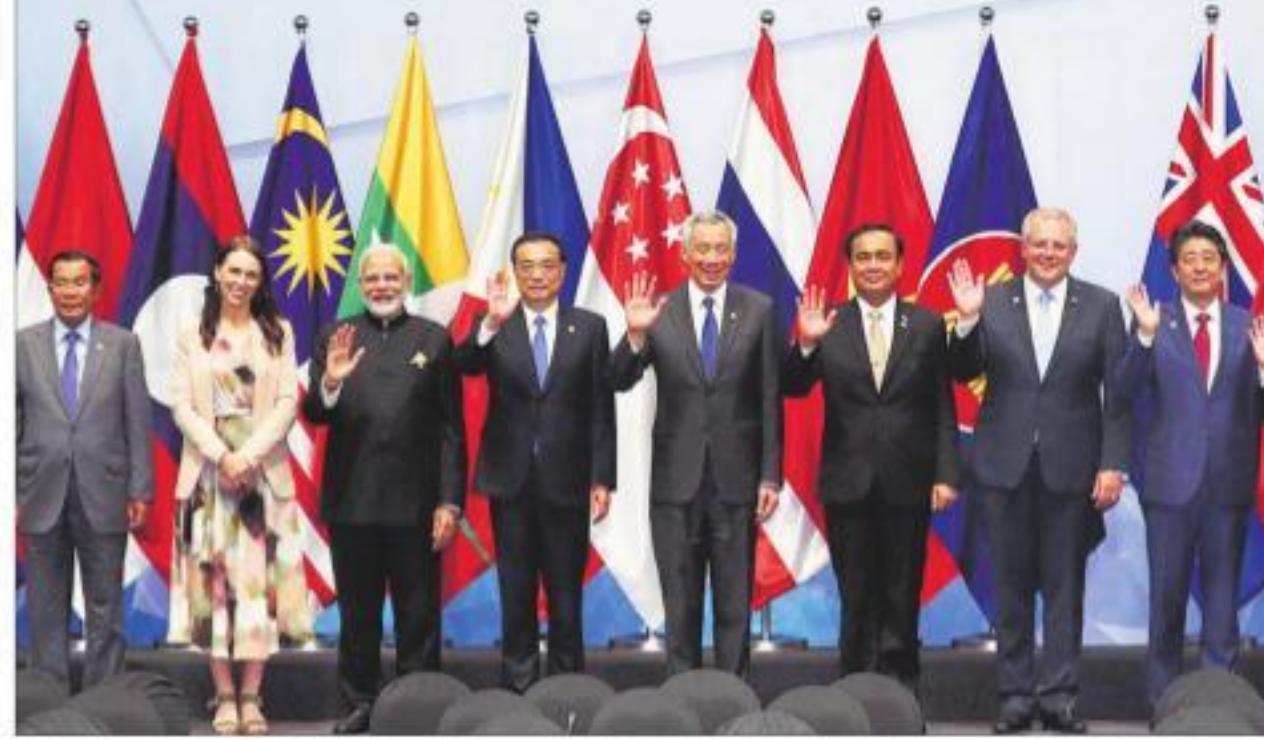
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ASEAN

THE global focus is on the Biden administration's reaction to different aspects of international politics. The China discourse dominates current thinking so much that almost every country, including India, is keen to grasp the nuances of the Biden policy towards China. This includes the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The association is accustomed to its centrality in the region through the ASEAN Dialogue Partnerships with 10 countries, including India, the US and China; the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and now the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). It evolved as an Indo-Pacific policy outlook in 2019, so as not to be left out of strategic churning. It successfully stayed the course for the RCEP and some members bravely joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

ASEAN felt the heat of strategic competition as China asserted itself aggressively in the South China Sea (SCS) over which it lays traditional claims to the exclusion of the sovereignty of ASEAN states. ASEAN was concerned with the Sino-US rivalry in the region, particularly as Quad countries like India, Japan and Australia also joined the strategic countenance.

Biden's election brings a sense of relief to ASEAN, which was anxious regarding the then US President Trump's open confrontation with China, often nudging ASEAN countries to take sides, which they are loath to do. With the RCEP and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investments in



STAYING THE COURSE: ASEAN has felt the heat of strategic competition as China asserted itself in the South China Sea to the exclusion of sovereignty of member states. REUTERS

infrastructure in ASEAN, it was perceived to be tilting towards China. President Trump had not made it easier, having skipped every East Asia Summit since 2017. That hurt ASEAN centrality. ASEAN now believes that with Biden, a more rational order will prevail where normal diplomacy, rather than tweets, would determine the policy. Till the next East Asia Summit in November 2021, ASEAN has adequate time to adjust to the Biden administration, understand it better and engage it.

The cautious policy of trying to balance between the US and China was unhinged by China's vaccine diplomacy which included joint production with some states, expanding the reach of the BRI including into the Philippines and a post-pandemic expansion of trade making China ASEAN's largest trading partner.

Several interlocutors in the last

months of 2020 noted that ASEAN's future policies would be determined by the US elections. It remains to be seen whether ASEAN policies adopt any change or merely become more comfortable with a new Biden administration. Current statements by Biden nominees during confirmation hearings indicate that they will continue to counter China, stay focused on the Indo-Pacific, engage Japan and South Korea as alliance partners and stay the course with the Quad. These have been sources of discomfort for ASEAN. The style and demeanour that the Biden administration exhibit towards China could be the balm that ASEAN may relax with.

Brunei has taken over as the ASEAN chairman from Vietnam. It convened its first virtual meeting of foreign ministers on January 28 this year. They look forward to working to strengthen

the ASEAN-US strategic partnership for regional peace, security, stability and prosperity. They hope that ASEAN-US cooperation will sustain multilateralism, international cooperation, contribute to global economic recovery and mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Trump largely ignored ASEAN, with Mike Pompeo in September challenging ASEAN to act firmly against China, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines in January 2021, while he had visited Malaysia and Thailand in October 2020. This has not softened the ASEAN position on the South China Sea and in the statement by the foreign ministers on January 28, 2021, they reiterated the consensus in the Vietnamese Chair's statement in November 2020.

The next steps require a conclusion of the decade-long process of the ASEAN-China code of conduct on the SCS. China has agreed to negotiate with ASEAN as one entity but has put forth difficult conditions including non-applicability of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), exclusion of non-ASEAN countries from access to resources and to keep the South China Sea gains unchallenged. Some ASEAN countries like Indonesia and Vietnam have approached the UN Secretary General with declarations of their UNCLOS-compliant positions on the South China Sea. Similar support has come from the UK, France and Germany.

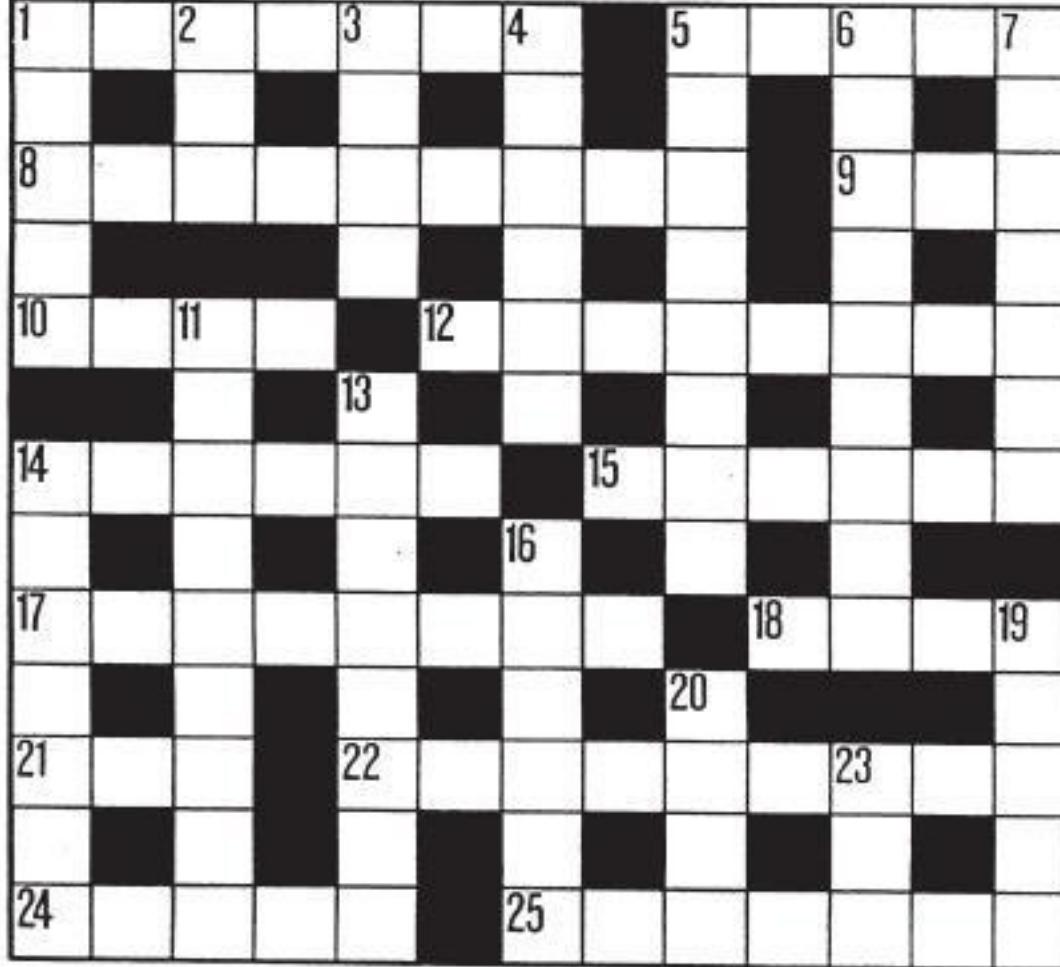
This is an interesting time for ASEAN. While they were waiting for the Sino-US rivalry to play out, France, Germany and the Netherlands in the past two years announced new Indo-Pacific policies.

The EU is also expected to announce one. These are not robust challenges to China. ASEAN saw them as supportive of its vision. These recognise ASEAN centrality and expanded relations with them.

ASEAN has 10 dialogue partners, including the United States, China and India. Since 1997, there has been a moratorium on the expansion of such dialogue partnerships, but there is growing interest among the countries to engage with ASEAN. ASEAN has accepted more sectoral partners without breaching the moratorium. Norway, Switzerland and Turkey have been thus accepted in the same category as Pakistan. Chile and Germany are joined by Italy and France in a new category of development partners. With the growing interest of the UK in the Indo-Pacific and in the region, it is making post-Brexit efforts to join the TPP. This interests ASEAN. Earlier, the UK had a dialogue partnership with ASEAN through the EU but now intends to push its case for a separate partnership with ASEAN along with its application for the Asia-Pacific free trade agreement and the TPP. It has already presented a plan for ASEAN to use global value chains as part of ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery framework.

With growing interest in ASEAN, it is time for India as a privileged dialogue partner since 1995 to add more substance — ranging from infrastructure, capacity building, trilateral cooperation and public health to new resilient value chains. The absence from the RCEP should not be allowed to diminish the partnership, much as others with a shorter history are trying to build.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Hopeless, 5 Glum, 9 Slant, 10 Refrain, 11 To all intents, 13 Dinghy, 14 Berate, 17 Quintessence, 20 Austere, 21 Odium, 22 Epee, 23 Bludgeon.
Down: 1 Hush, 2 Platoon, 3 Little Hitler, 4 Sordid, 6 Learn, 7 Minister, 8 Off the record, 12 Adequate, 15 Ascribe, 16 As well, 18 Issue, 19 Omen.

SU DO KU



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 11, 2021, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Magh Shaka	22
■ Magh Parvishte	29
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 15, up to 12:36 am	
■ Variyan Yoga up to 3:32 am	
■ Shravan Nakshatra up to 2:05 pm	
■ Moon enters Aquarius sign 2:11 am	
■ Panchak start 2:11 am	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:08 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 07:05 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	26	10
New Delhi	29	9
Amritsar	24	10
Bathinda	26	8
Jalandhar	24	10
Ludhiana	25	8
Bhiwani	26	12
Hisar	26	9
Sirsa	27	9
Dharamsala	17	7
Manali	16	2
Shimla	19	5
Srinagar	13	-03
Jammu	23	10
Kargil	0	-10
Leh	-02	-14
Dehradun	24	8
Mussoorie	17	6

TEMPERATURE IN °C

PAGD wins DDC chief polls in 2 dists

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — an amalgam of six political parties seeking restoration of the special constitutional status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir — won the elections to the posts of chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in two districts of the Valley on Wednesday, officials said.

In the third phase of the polls on Wednesday, the elections were conducted in two districts of the Kashmir valley — Ganderbal and Pulwama — and the PAGD, which includes the National Conference

NC bags post in Ganderbal, PDP in Pulwama

- In Ganderbal district, NC candidate Nuzhat Ishfaq was elected as the chairperson, while Bilal Ahmad Sheikh of the PDP was elected as the vice-chairperson of the DDC.
- In Pulwama district, PDP candidate Syed Bari Andrabi was elected as the chairperson, while NC candidate Mukhtar Ahmad Bandh as his deputy.

'SHOWED EXEMPLARY CHARACTER, COURAGE'

 Congratulations to DDC members of Pulwama & Ganderbal for showing exemplary character & courage. They stood by PAGD despite unimaginable pressures & threats. Mehbooba Mufti, PDP President

(NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), won at both the places.

While the NC bagged the post of the chairperson from Ganderbal, a PDP

candidate was elected as chairperson in Pulwama, the officials said.

In Ganderbal district in central Kashmir, NC candidate Nuzhat Ishfaq was elected as the chairperson, while Bilal Ahmad Sheikh of the PDP was elected as the vice-chairperson of the DDC, they said.

Nuzhat is the wife of NC leader and former MLA from Ganderbal Ishfaq Jabbar.

In the DDC polls for 14 seats in the district, which took place in December last year, the NC had won seven seats while the PDP bagged four and three went to the kitty of Independents.

In Pulwama district in south Kashmir, PDP candidate Syed Bari Andrabi was elected as the chairperson, while NC candidate Mukhtar Ahmad Bandh as his deputy, the officials said.

The PDP had emerged as the single largest party in the district by bagging half of the total 14 seats.

The PDP's DDC member

Waheed-ul-Rehman Para, who was arrested by the NIA first and later by the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) and is yet to take oath as a DDC member — could not participate in the election to the post of chairperson and vice-chairperson, the officials added. — PTI

'Intruder' shot dead in Uri

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10

The Army shot an "intruder" dead near the LoC in the Uri sector, the police said on Wednesday.

Army jawans killed an "intruder" near the LoC at Dulanja in Uri on Tuesday night, a police official said.

He identified the "intruder" as Sarfraz Mir, 56, a resident of Kundibarjala Kamkotla, Uri.

"Mir had crossed the LoC in 1990 and then returned in 1992. He surrendered (before the security forces) in 1995 and then went back to Pakistan in 2005," the official said. An identity card issued by the authorities in the Muzaffarabad area of PoK and a rifle was recovered by the Army, he said. — PTI

1 dead, 45 new cases

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10

With 45 fresh cases, J&K's Covid-19 tally climbed to 1,25,052 on Wednesday, while one more fatality pushed the death toll due to the disease to 1,945 in the UT, officials said.

Six of the fresh Covid cases were reported from the Jammu division, while 39 from

Kashmir. Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 23 cases, they added.

While eight districts did not report any fresh Covid case, 11 other districts recorded fresh cases in single digits. The number of active Covid-19 cases had risen to 605 in the UT, the officials said. — PTI

Srinagar shivers at -1.6°C

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10

Kashmir continued to reel under cold weather conditions with the minimum temperature dropping in most parts of the Valley, officials said on Wednesday.

The Meteorological Department has predicted dry but slightly cold weather for the next few days, they said.

Srinagar recorded a low of -1.6°C, down from the previous night's 1.2°C, the officials said. Pahalgam recorded a low of -4°C — down from -2.2°C the previous night. The minimum temperature at Gulmarg settled at -4°C — half a degree down from the previous night, the officials said. — PTI

Panthers Party president resigns

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 10

In a setback to the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), its president and former legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia on Wednesday announced his resignation from the basic membership of the party.

Mankotia, a two-time former MLA from the Udhampur constituency, was on February 6 re-elected as party president, a post which he had been holding for the past over one decade.

"With a heavy heart, I announce my resignation from all posts and responsibilities in the party and also from the basic membership of the party," Mankotia said



Balwant Singh Mankotia

in a video message on his Facebook page.

The JKNPP leader said unavoidable circumstances forced him to take this decision in haste and without consulting colleagues and workers, indicating

that he was resigning because of a power tussle within the extended family.

"Had I not resigned, there was a possibility of the family matter becoming public. I appeal to JKNPP founder and patron Bhim Singh that Harsh Dev Singh (JKNPP chairman) is capable and has interest. He should be given full responsibility of the party," he said.

Bhim Singh is the uncle of Mankotia and Harsh Dev Singh is his cousin brother.

He asked his supporters to attend the scheduled meeting in Udhampur on Thursday and said the meeting would decide his future course of action. — PTI

India, China begin...

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10

have been withdrawn from the south bank of the lake. On the north bank, the number of infantry troops is being reduced.

A decision on the disengagement had been announced on January 25 in a joint statement following the 9th round of India-

China corps commander-level meeting conducted on January 24. "The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on disengagement along the LAC... (and) agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops," the joint statement read.

Hry creates special job...

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10

A provision has been made for granting monthly stipend to the outstanding sportspersons on the basis of their achievements in sports tournaments of international level, especially Para Olympics, Asian Para Games, Commonwealth Para Games, World University Games and

South Asian Games.

To encourage sportspersons, especially those who are not economically well off but have qualified for participation in Olympics, the state government has decided to grant them Rs 5 lakh for better diet, training and capacity building.

Department of Water Resources Punjab

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

E-Tendering Notice No. 366/25M/Confi. Dated: 08.02.2021

Secure online submission of Tenders

(Short Term Tender)

Instruction to bidders

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, e-tenders are hereby invited on work order basis through website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from approved and eligible Contractors/Agencies & L.C & Co-op Societies registered only with the PWD. (B.R), Punjab (Principal Department) as per notification of Punjab Govt., Department of Co-operation (Co-operation I-Branch) No. 76/52/79-C(5) 8856 dated 04.11.2019 for 2 Nos. works. All the works are of Construction of RCC Structures and their details & complete bidding process is available on the above mentioned website.

Bidding Process

Description	Date	Time
Date of Start of sale of tender	10.02.2021	14.00 Hours
Date of Close of Bid	16.02.2021	17.00 Hours
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	17.02.2021	15.00 Hours
Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated later	

1) Any corrigendum will be published only on website. Prospective bidders are advised to frequently visit the above website.

2) For any clarification regarding E-Tendering, Please Contact 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284, 8146000943, 7009702695.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Golewala Drainage Division,
Ferozepur. (Ph. 01632-245366)

DPR/Pb/1420

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH

NOTICE INVITING OFFLINE BIDS

TENDER NOTICE NO. 14 DATED 10-02-2021

On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD (B&R), Nabha invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "Civil Building works" Category with PWD (B&R) for the works regarding Special Repair of Nafer Quarters No- 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 on Circular Road, Nabha under Head-2059 N. P.(M.R). Last date and time for the submission of bid 22-02-2021 (Time 03:00 PM for Societies & 03:30 PM for Contractors).

Sd/- Er. Bankesh Sharma,
Executive Engineer,
Construction Division, PWD (B&R), Nabha.
E.mail:-xennabha@gmail.com
Tel.Ph. No-01765-220135

DPR/Pb/1413

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH

SHORT TERM TENDER INVITING ONLINE BIDS

TENDER NOTICE NO. 16 DATED 08.02.2021

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division No.1, PWD (B&R) Br., Amritsar invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the following table. The bids shall be on the percentage basis. The bidders may submit bids for any of the following works.

Sr. No.	Name of Project Work/Works	Bid Security/Earnest Money	Cost of Documents/Tender Fee	Period of Completion	Approx. value of the project work
1	Special Repair of various link roads falling under M.C. Khadoor Sahib Dist. Taran Taran for the year 2020-21 Phase-I Group No.3 (7 No. roads)	3,76,402/-	10,000/-	Six Months	1,88,20,091

2. Period of availability of Tender online/Date & Time of online bid submission and date & time of opening of Bids are as given below:-

Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last date & Time for online submission of Bids	Date & Time of opening of tender
From	To	Technical Bid Financial Bid
08.02.2021 05:00 p.m.	16.02.2021 05:00 p.m.	17.02.2021 11:00 a.m. Will be intimated later on

*For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids refer to our website <http://eproc.pbpwd.gov.in>. ** The eligible bidders who do not possess DSC (Digital Signature Certificate) may get the same issued from approved agencies and for any other query may contact helpline No. 0172-662667-7.

For & on behalf of Governor of Punjab
Sd/- (Er. Inderjit Singh)
Executive Engineer,
Construction Division No. 1,
PWD (B&R) Br., Amritsar
Phone No. 9876176858

DPR/Pb/1412

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

Regional Office Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, Sham Nagar, Ludhiana-141001, Ph. 0161-2447243, 2440559,

Fax 2402206, Email: ro.ludhiana@epfindia.gov.in

(AUCTION NOTICE)

Public auction of Disposal of old and unusable furniture,

fixture and other items such as almirahs, racks, chair, table, hot cases, water coolers, campers, kettles, computer items (E-waste), wooden scrap, unserviceable records and other miscellaneous items in three lots on "As is where is basis" available at EPFO Office premises, Sham Nagar, Ludhiana and at EPFO Staff Colony located at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Block-H, Pahowal Road, Ludhiana, will be conducted on 04.03.2021 at 3.00 pm at EPFO Office premises, Sham Nagar, Ludhiana. The items can be inspected by interested parties between 11am to 4pm on any working day i.e Monday to Friday by contacting Sh. Keshav Partap Singh Chaudhary, Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner (Admn). Each person participating in the auction will have to deposit an earnest money of Rs 10,000/- through demand draft in favour of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ludhiana payable at Ludhiana. This amount will be adjusted towards final amount for successful bidder and refunded to unsuccessful bidders. Reserve price of items will be announced at the time of auction. The highest bidders will have to deposit full amount at the fall of hammer. Detail of auction notice may be obtained on EPFO website www.epfindia.gov.in.

Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ludhiana reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or to cancel the whole auction without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
REGIONAL P.F.COMMISSIONER (ADMN)
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
REGIONAL OFFICE, LUDHIANA

DPR/Pb/1423

'Intruder' shot dead in Uri

1 dead, 45 new cases

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 1

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI

Divyansh smashes finals world record

Tokyo Olympics quota holder Divyansh Singh Pawar smashed the world record with a score of 253.1 to win the men's 10m air rifle T4 event of the National Selection Trials.

BAMBOLEM

Jamshedpur beat Chennai, keep playoff hopes alive

Jamshedpur FC rode on an injury-time own goal from Enes Sipovic to beat Chennaiyin FC 1-0 in an Indian Super League match here today.

MUMBAI

Young Seher cards 65 to lead in 3rd leg

Eyed her maiden professional title, Seher Atwal shot a flawless 5-under 65 to take the lead in the opening round of the third leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour here today. The 22-year-old led by one shot over Amandeep Drall, who also had a bogey-free round. Two players, Lakhmeher Pardesi (72) and Durga Nittur (73), landed hole-in-ones.

LIEVIN (FRANCE)

Tsegay sets new world indoor record in 1,500m

Gudaf Tsegay of Ethiopia set a new 1,500 metres indoor world record by finishing in 3 minutes 53.09 seconds at a meet in northern France. A Worlds bronze medalist, Tsegay followed the fast tempo set by the pacemaker and held on to prevail over double European indoor champion Laura Muir and her teammate Melissa Courtney-Bryant. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

TENNIS
AUSTRALIAN OPEN
SONY SIX 5:30AM

ISL
ODISHA VS KERALA
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

On the right track

MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 10 Novak Djokovic's aura of invincibility at Rod Laver Arena wavered under the pressure of Frances Tiafoe but the Serbian rose to the challenge to claim a tough 6-3, 6-7(3), 7-6(2), 6-3 win and reach the third round of the Australian Open.

The double-defending champion has rarely been tested so early at his favourite Grand Slam but he had his hands full against American Tiafoe, whose sparkling tennis revived memories of his exhilarating run to the 2019 quarterfinals.

"Very tough match," said a relieved Djokovic on court, his voice faint and hoarse from the battle. "Also difficult conditions. While we had sun on the court it was very, very warm. I want to give a hand to Frances again for a great fight. It was a fantastic match. If I have to choose obviously I would like to have these kinds of matches in the opening week."

Tiafoe went toe-to-toe with the top seed on a hot and humid afternoon but it

all fell apart at 3-3 in the final set when the American grew frustrated by the service clock. He was docked a serve and then broken after a foul-mouthed tirade at the chair umpire.

He continued grumbling at the change of ends, complaining there was no time to wipe down with a towel and fire down a serve. Due to social distancing restrictions, players have to pick up their towels rather than have them handed to them by a ballkid.

Tiafoe earned a code violation for an audible obscenity before bowing out with a double-fault on match point.

Djokovic is unbeaten on the Melbourne Park centre court since an injury-hampered fourth round defeat to South Korea's Chung Hyeon in the 2018 tournament. "When you win a lot on certain court you feel more comfortable and confident," said the Serb, who is bidding for a record-extending ninth title at Melbourne Park and 18th Grand Slam crown in total. "It feels right, it feels like my living room here. It's only I'm not sitting on a couch."

JUST A BAD DREAM

Naomi Osaka dreamt that she would lose her second round match but the reality was a comfortable 6-2, 6-3 victory over Caroline Garcia. "Going into this match I was really nervous and I actually had a really bad dream about it," Osaka said. "For me, my dreams are very telling of the future. Like, usually I have dreams and they come true. Last night I had a dream that I lost this match, and I really didn't feel good about it."

A WOMAN'S AGE

Taiwanese giant killer Hsieh Su-wei offered a token of advice during her on-court interview after upsetting former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 6-2. Congratulated by the interviewer for "still going strong" at the age of 35, Hsieh held a finger to her lips, shook her

Serena trying not to overthink things

Serena Williams said she played better when she was not thinking quite as much after reaching the third round of the Australian Open for the 19th time with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Nina Stojanovic. The American, again sporting her distinctive one-legged leotard, needed to find her best game at times in the first set against a spirited Serbian 15 years her junior who was playing in her fourth Grand Slam.

Williams ramped up her serve to see off the danger before putting the pressure back on her opponent with some booming service returns, running out a comfortable winner on a sun-drenched Rod Laver Arena.

"I wasn't thinking so much in the second set," the 39-year-old said. "I think sometimes ... Even with my serve, I overthink it. When I don't think about it and I'm just like, whatever, it goes in. But that's clearly not the way to do it." — Reuters

DAY 3 HIGHLIGHTS

head and laughed. "Just little reminder (for you). In Asia we normally don't say the girl's age in the public," she said, triggering laughter and applause in the stands.

PAINFUL EXIT

Venus Williams refused to give up after suffering an injury against Italian Sara Errani and fought through pain before bowing out with a 6-1, 6-0 defeat. The 40-year-old started the match with a taped left knee and twisted her right ankle trying to approach the net while trailing 1-5 in the opening set. Williams shrieked in pain before hobbling to her chair to receive medical attention and a retirement looked imminent by the American. But after receiving heavy strapping on her ankle and extra taping on the knee she returned to court amid wide applause. Williams did not win another game.

Djokovic, Serena enter third round



Novak Djokovic hit 56 winners and 26 aces against Frances Tiafoe; BELOW: Serena Williams managed just 57 percent of first serves, but had an 86 percent win rate on first serves against Nina Stojanovic. REUTERS



'I FEEL LIKE I'M DYING'

Hungarian Marton Fucsovics came through a five-set thriller against Stan Wawrinka to reach the third round, saving three match points en route to a 7-5, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 7-6(9) win over the three-time Grand Slam champion. "Right now, I feel like I'm dying," said world No. 55 Fucsovics, who also needed five sets to beat Marc Polmans in the opening round.

FIGHTING SPIRIT

World No. 2 and 2018 finalist Simona Halep recovered from a shaky start to beat Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-4, 7-5. The Romanian second seed rallied back from 2-5 down in the third set to fend off the world No. 72, Australian Nick Kyrgios, who saved two match points to knock out French 29th seed Ugo Humbert 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-4. REUTERS

BOPANNA GOES DOWN

India endured a second successive disappointing result, with Rohan Bopanna and Ben McLachlan bowing out after a close opening-round defeat to Ji Sung Nam and Min-Kyu Song in the men's doubles event. Bopanna and his Japanese partner lost 4-6, 6-7(0) to the South Korean wild card pair in one hour and 17 minutes.

NO MORE LINE JUDGES?

The Australian Open looks to have seen the last of the crouching officials scrutinising the lines of the tennis court after they were replaced by technology for this year's tournament — a move that has been largely welcomed by players. This is the first Major to replace line judges with electronic line calling, a change brought about through necessity as part of a Covid-19 health measure to reduce the number of people required on-site. It may have deprived tennis fans of courtside drama, but the players are not complaining. "It saves me the trouble of attempting to challenge or thinking about did they call it correctly or not," said US Open champion Naomi Osaka. "If they do want to continue this way, I actually have no complaints about it because I think that there's a lot of arguments that aren't going to happen because of this technology." Line calls are being delivered real time through remote tracking cameras, meaning there have been no angry outbursts from players over close calls. Tournament director Craig Tiley was certain that, while the line judge would survive at lower levels, the days when future elite umpires honed their skills by calling the lines at Grand Slams were numbered.

MAJOR RESULTS

MEN: Grigor Dimitrov bt Alex Bolt 7-6(1), 6-1, 6-2; Alexander Zverev bt Maxime Cressy 7-5, 6-4, 6-3; Denis Shapovalov bt Bernard Tomic 6-1, 6-3, 6-2; Dominic Thiem bt Dominik Koepfer 6-4, 6-0, 6-2



Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was sent packing 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 by Sorana Cirstea. REUTERS

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL NEAR MILITARY HOSPITAL, JALANDHAR CANTT Ph: 0181-2630776 e-mail : apsjalandharcantt@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

- Sealed Tenders are invited by 18 Feb 2021 for printing and procurement of Students Diary quantity 4100.
- The printing specification and bid format may be obtained from this school during the office hour from 10.00AM to 3.00PM.

Sd/- Principal

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HOUSING - 1 BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION OF THE SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Notification No: 06/01/2021-6HG1/107

Dated: 18.01.2021

Greater Mohali Area Development Authority, (GMADA), an Urban Development Authority constituted by the Government of Punjab has been entrusted to planned development in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali). In this connection GMADA has proposed to acquire in construction of 164 Feet wide Master Plan Road from Village Kambali to Airport Extension in Villages Kambali, Kambala & Rurka, Tehsil Mohali, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar as per approved Master Plan vide drawing No. DTP(S) 1991/2008, dated 19-11-2008 in the area of Tehsil Mohali, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar.

It is hereby notified that the Social Impact Assessment shall be carried out in consultation with the concerned Gram Panchayat in the affected area. The proposed acquisition of aforesaid Master Plan road would entail about (17.7126 acres) of land. These lands shall be acquired from Villages Kambali, Kambala & Rurka, Tehsil Mohali, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar. The main objectives of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is to:-

(i) Assess whether the proposed acquisition serves public purpose.

(ii) Estimate number of affected families and number of families among them likely to be displaced.

(iii) Understand extent of land public and private, houses, settlement and other common properties likely to be affected by the proposed acquisition.

(iv) Understand extent of land acquired is bare minimum needed for the project.

(v) Analyse alternate place (if any).

(vi) Study of the Social impacts, nature and cost of addressing them and impact of these costs on the overall cost of the project vis-à-vis the benefit of the project.

This notification is made under the provision of Section-4(l) of "The Right To Fair Compensation & Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act 2013" (No. 30 OF 2013).

It is hereby notified that the acquisition of land under the proposed project falls under the provision of section 2(l)-(e) project for planned development.

Thus, provision of section 2 (2) i.e. consent of Gram Sabha/Land Owners is not required for this project.

Furthermore special provisions to safeguard food security under section 10 of the said act are not triggered as it is a linear project. It is to be noted that entire Social Impact Assessment (SIA) shall be carried out in consultation with Panchayat and land owners.

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) shall commence from the date of issue of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) notification, which shall be completed

within 6 months. The important output of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) shall include Social Impact Assessment (SIA) report and Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) along with the disclosure as prescribed under section 6 of the said act.

Any person interested in the manner Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is being carried out may contact at the following address:-

The Collector, Urban Development, Ground Floor, PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Punjab.

Detail of the land is as under:-

SPECIFICATION OF LOCALITY

District : Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar

Tehsil: Mohali

Village: Kambali Hadbast No.: 225

Khasra No. Area K-M Khasra No. Area K-M

21/1 18/2 1-15 23 min 2-14

min 2-6 Total or 7-11

19/1 2/2 min 0-16 acre

22/2 min 0-16

District : Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar Tehsil: Mohali

Village: Kambali Hadbast No.: 226

Khasra No. Area K-M Khasra No. Area K-M

4/1 23 min 3-12 19 min 1-10

24 min 1-1 20 min 6-5

15/3 min 1-12 21 min 1-17

7 min 1-6 22 min 2-0

15 min 0-13 14/1 min 0-16

26/2 min 0-14 1/2 min 0-17

min 15 min 6-1

11 min 4-14 16 min 3-0

19 min 3-10 148 min 0-15

20/1 1-9 Raasta

20/2 min 2-13 149 min 0-9

21 min 0-4 Raasta

22 min 5-16 85-6 or

23/1 min 1-11 0-15 Total 10,8625 acre

18/1 11 min 0-5

District : Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar Tehsil: Mohali

Village: Rurka Hadbast No.: 263

Khasra No. Area K-M Khasra No. Area K-M

1/2/21 0-14 15 min 4-4

22/2 1-2 17/1 min 0-5

22/3 min 1-1 25 min 1-17

22/4 min 0-15 26 0-5

23/1 min 2-3 29 min 0-8

23/2 min 2-4 30 min 3-19

24 min 0-2 31 min 0-2

4/2/20 0-18 9/2/1 min 1-7

21 min 5-18 2/2 min 0-1

IN PARLIAMENT

**Sibal: Govt generous to bizmen, not farmers**

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Wednesday said while the Narendra Modi government was generous to industrialists, it tightened the purse strings in case of farmers. He said 58% of the assets in India were owned by one per cent people in 2018. "The 2019 estimates show that one per cent of the country's super-rich own 73 per cent of the assets," Sibal said, claiming that this was a classic case of crony capitalism. TNS

Bill to give autonomy to major ports passed

New Delhi: Parliament on Wednesday passed the Major Ports Authority Bill, 2020, which seeks to provide greater autonomy to 12 major ports in the country even as the Opposition feared the legislation would lead to their privatisation. Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Mansukh Mandaviya ruled out concerns of privatisation, saying the legislation only allowed autonomy to the ports so as to aid their decision-making powers. TNS

5,922 held in terror cases during 2016-19

New Delhi: As many as 5,922 people were arrested across the country between 2016 and 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the government informed Parliament on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said according to the latest data of the NCRB, the total number of people arrested under the UAPA in 2019 was 1,948. A total of 5,922 people were arrested under the anti-terror law between 2016 and 2019. PTI

Breach of privilege motion against Moitra

New Delhi: BJP MP PP Chaudhary on Wednesday moved a breach of privilege motion against TMC MP Mahua Moitra over her remarks against a former Chief Justice of India in Lok Sabha on Monday. "While speaking on Motion of Thanks on President's address, she has cast aspersions with respect to the conduct of a judge. TNS

SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT

Notice to Maha on NCW plea

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10
The SC on Wednesday issued a notice to the Maharashtra Government on the National Commission for Women's petition challenging the Bombay HC verdict that acquitted a man accused of child abuse on the ground that groping a child's breasts without "skin-to-skin contact" didn't amount to "sexual assault" under the POCSO Act.

A Bench headed by CJI SA Bobde, which had on January 27 stayed the verdict and the acquittal of the accused, asked the Maharashtra Government to respond to the NCW's petition against the January 19 verdict.

It also issued a notice to the accused on the Maharashtra Government's petition against the HC verdict. —TNS

Both public, private sectors important for growth: Modi

Says farmers' protest sacred, slams 'andolanjeevis' for exploiting it

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10
Prime Minister Narendra Modi today talked of taking India forward in the post-Corona period through self-reliance. Accusing "andolanjeevis" of exploiting the "pavitra andolan" (sacred agitation) of farmers, he mocked the Congress for being a "divided and confused house". He slammed the Opposition for "planning strategic disruptions" and urged agitating farmers to come forward for discussions.

Referring to the criticism of "corporate" takeover, he said: "If public sector is important for the country, so is the private sector as wealth creators are important for wealth to be distributed."

He said the government and Parliament had great respect for those voicing views on the three farm laws, which was why topmost ministers had been talking to them. Allaying apprehensions, he said neither any 'mandi' had shut down nor had the MSP stopped, rather the MSP had been increased.

Amid protests by Opposition MPs, the PM said the laws were important for the nation's progress. "No one asked for laws against dowry,



PM Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

triple talaq... but these laws were enacted because these were progressive," he said.

"It cannot be status quo anymore," he said, pointing to the increasing number of landless labourers and agriculture becoming unremunerative. "This is disturbing because it means that there is not adequate investment in the sector. Farmers also need to diversify towards more paying crops," he said.

Defending the three farm laws, the PM said they had been enacted in line with the need of the time to meet new challenges in the agriculture sector. "Countries are not run on status quo and leaders will have to take responsibility for desired change," he

said, speaking in the Lok Sabha during the motion of thanks on the President's address amid disruptions by Opposition MPs.

The PM said differentiation would have to be made between "andolankaaris" and "andolanjeevis". "Kisan andolan is 'pavitra' (sacred/pure) but when 'andolanjeevis' use it to further their interest, showcase photos of those jailed for serious offences like terrorism, does it serve any purpose? Not allowing toll plazas to function...destroying thousands of telecom towers in Punjab, is it pavitra bhavna," he said.

The PM said India has to be "atmanirbhar" to cement its place in the post-Corona period. "The credit for dealing

with the fear of unknown goes to the discipline of 130 crore Indians. India not only overcame the crisis to become self-reliant but also helped other countries," he said. Taking a swipe at Congress' Punjab MP Manish Tewari who had attributed India's tapering figures to "God's grace", the PM said he agreed with the observation. "It is because India's frontline healthworkers, doctors and nurses, safai karamcharis and ambulance drivers saved us," he said.

The PM said those disrupting the House were doing so "as per a well-planned strategy as they are unable to digest that people can see the truth". Taking a dig at the Congress, he said "the condition of the party had now become such that its Rajya Sabha unit moved in one direction while the Lok Sabha unit moved in the other".

"Nothing can be more unfortunate than this. The Congress is also there in the Rajya Sabha, their senior leaders debate with enthusiasm. On the other hand, there is the other section of the Congress (in LS)," the PM said as the Congress staged a walkout along with the TMC while he was speaking.

Speculation rife on govt office for Azad

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

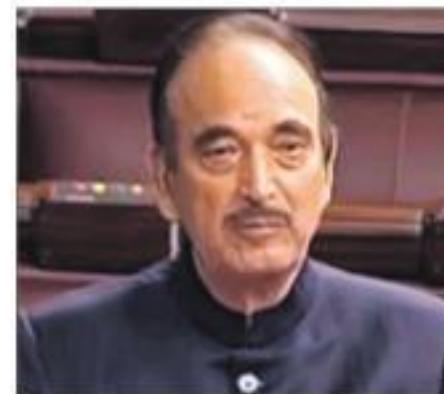
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emotional farewell speech praising Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad in the Rajya Sabha, speculation is rife over the political future of the senior leader from Jammu and Kashmir and also the PDP leaders retiring with him from the Upper House.

While some visualised Azad as a potential NDA candidate for the post of Vice President/Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha or a Governor of an important state, others (considering Congress' G-23) saw him as a possible saffron face in J&K where the government has plans to hold elections sometime in future.

The BJP's prospects are well looked after in Jammu region, but in Valley it lacks sufficient talent and also "tall, credible, compassionate faces and leaders who can provide healing touch to the region". However, those with a contrary point of view said "not much should be read into warm-hearted respect accorded to a senior Opposition leader and the next CM of J&K is expected to be from Jammu".

Though if read with the PM's reply to the debate on the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, some dots can be connected.



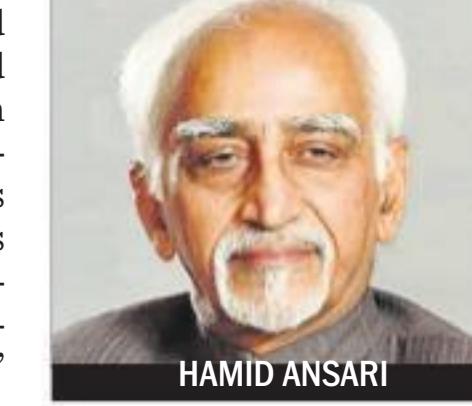
DESIRE NOTHING

I am a Congressman... I have no desire for another Rajya Sabha term or any new role. Ghulam Nabi Azad, LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN RAYA SABHA

A day before, Modi had drawn attention to Azad's easy manner and his comments on J&K and recent DDC/local polls.

BJP leaders are all praise for Azad "who wants the situation to improve in the Valley". At 71 years, Azad has a few years before he hits the BJP's unofficial date of retirement from politics (75 years). PDP's Nazir Ahmed Layaw said he hoped that a Bill would be brought in Parliament soon to make J&K a state again. "The PM and the Home Minister have promised in this House that J&K will become a state again. I am confident that a Bill to this effect will be soon brought to the House," he said. Another outgoing PDP MP Mir Mohammed Fayaz appealed to the PM and the Home Minister to make J&K one state again and restore its special status.

Certain sections portraying Muslims as 'others': Ansari



HAMID ANSARI

they being ostracised? Are they withdrawing?" he asked, accusing the BJP of targeting the Muslim identity.

Ansari later said there was an effort by a section of people to treat Muslims as "others". The former V-P said, "Yes I am pained because there is a concerted effort by some to regard Muslims as 'others'. Am I a citizen or not? If I am a citizen, I have the right to be a beneficiary of all things that

flow out of citizenship."

Noting that a plural society was a reality in India, Ansari recalled the 2015 episode where he was questioned for not saluting the Tricolour during Republic Day celebrations. Another time he was questioned by BJP's Ram Madhav for skipping the Yoga Day event.

"I know what protocol etiquette is. I do yoga every morning. I was not invited to the Yoga Day event and I did not go to the function. When the PM is the chief guest, President and V-P are not invited. Those who primed for the controversies later apologised in some way or the other," he said. Ansari defended separate personal laws in times when the ruling BJP is moving towards a uniform civil code. —TNS

THE HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

Regd. Office:- New Himrus Building, Circular Road, Shimla - 171001 (H.P.)
CIN:- U70109HP1966SGC 002683, Tel No.: 0177-2621426/2624751/2625339, Fax: 0177-2624278
Email: hpsidc@rediffmail.com | Website: hpsidc.nic.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

The Executive Engineer HPSIDC Ltd. Shimla on behalf of Managing Director HPSIDC Ltd Shimla, hereby invites online item rate bids through electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors, registered in appropriate class with HPPWD, CPWD, I&PH, & HIMUDA, and other Govt. agency/organization on the schedule, term and conditions mentioned below.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender (i/c G.S.T.)	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Class
1.	Providing 8 passenger elevator at R.T.O. / Directorate of Transport office near 103 Tunnel Shimla (HP).	Rs. 29,95,520/-	Rs. 3500/-	Rs. 52,500/-	Two Months	Appropriate Class
2.	Construction of Veterinary Hospital at Basdehra Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 40,69,857/-	Rs. 4700/-	Rs. 68,500/-	Eight Months	B & C
3.	Construction of Veterinary Hospital at Santokhgarh Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 40,21,775/-	Rs. 4600/-	Rs. 67,800/-	Eight Months	B & C
4.	Construction of retaining wall the backside of type-II and type-III Qtr. in DIC residential Colony at Gwalthai Distt. Bilaspur (HP).	Rs. 8,90,512/-	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 17,800/-	Three Months	C & D
5.	Construction of RFSL Additional Block at Mandi (HP). (SH:- Providing Electrical installation thereof).	Rs. 4,97,032/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 9,900/-	15 days after completion of civil works	Appropriate Class
6.	Construction of Additional block over existing a block in jail department Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 26,67,246/-	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 47,500/-	Six Months	C & D
7.	Construction of Veterinary Hospital at Thanakalan Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 44,22,181/-	Rs. 5100/-	Rs. 73,800/-	Eight Months	B & C
8.	Construction of 500MT capacity Godown at Nadaun Distt. Hamirpur (HP).	Rs. 44,01,363/-	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 73,500/-	Eight Months	B & C
9.	Construction of Zonal Veterinary Hospital at Barnoh Distt. Una (HP). (SH:- Providing Electrical Installation & yard lighting thereof).	Rs. 26,18,550/-	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 46,800/-	15 days after completion of civil works	Appropriate Class
10.	Construction of 500 MT. Capacity Godown of Civil Supply Corporation at Dhaliala Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 48,07,934/-	Rs. 5600/-	Rs. 79,600/-	Nine Months	B & C
11.	P/L distribution line from Over Head Water Storage Tank at Phase-IV RD 0/00 to 0/3350 in BBT Corridor at Tahliwala Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 18,18,961/-	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 34,800/-	Six Months	C & D
12.	Providing Light Roof Structure Over G.M. residence at DIC colony Una Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 6,82,972/-	Rs. 800/-	Rs. 13,700/-	Six Months	C & D
13.	Providing Light Roof Structure Over existing Guest House in Service Building at Mehatpur Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 7,89,936/-	Rs. 900/-	Rs. 15,800/-	Six Months	C & D
14.	SRMO Industrial road and road side drain (Metalling and tarring at Ind. Area Ratti Distt. Mandi (HP)).	Rs. 13,34,468/-	Rs. 26,700/-	Rs. 1400/-	Six Months	Appropriate Class
15.	Providing and laying GI pipeline 100mm dia and setting up fire Hydrant at Phase-IV Ind. Area Sauli Khad (HP).	Rs. 6,48,718/-	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 13,000/-	Four Months	C & D
16.	Providing and laying of GI pipe line and setting up fire hydrant at Ind. Area Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur (HP).	Rs. 8,78,348/-	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 17,600/-	Four Months	C & D
17.	Construction of unloading / storage shed in washing area at CLBP Ind. Area Mehatpur Distt. Una (HP).	Rs. 9,42,212/-	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 18,900/-	Three Months	C & D

Schedule and terms and conditions:-

Date and time for download of bidding documents from e-procurement portal.	Date & time for online submission of bids, required documents, cost of form and earnest money	Date & time of opening online Technical Bids/Financial bid.
From 17.02.2021 11:00 AM	To 09.03.2021 5:00 PM	From 17.02.2021 11:00 AM To 09.03.2021 5:00 PM

1. Time for Online submission of required documents, cost of form & earnest money is 17.02.2021 to 09.03.2021.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be published on website only <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>.
3. The bids should be submitted online on website <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>. Bidders should get registered themselves on website <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>. The bids shall be opened in the office of Executive Engineer, HPSIDC Ltd; Shimla by the authorized officers.
4. Other details of the eligibility and qualification criteria as well as scope of work can be seen in the online bidding document. For detailed terms and conditions log on to website <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>. The successful bidder shall get the work registered with the Labour Officer concerned and intimate the Labour Officer the amount of work awarded before start of execution of work if awarded.
5. The bidders must have successfully completed similar type of one work not less than 40% of estimated cost during last five years in any Govt. Deptt. / Public sectors (without liquidated damage or compensation) in respect of works at Sr. No. 1,2,3,7,8,9,10 & 14. The certificate should be issued by the concerned Executive Engineer/ competent authority.
6. Successful bidder shall submit geotechnical investigation reports if required and Structural Design/ working drawing duly vetted from Govt. Institute i.e. NIT or PEC to the concerned Engineer-in-charge within 25 days after issue of award letter. This shall be treated as incidental to work and nothing shall be paid extra.
7. Contractors have to upload clear copies of all the documents. Copies not scanned properly or uploaded not clearly, will not be considered.
8. The bidder shall have to fulfill the requirements of EPF.
9. The bidders are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra.
10. The Executive Engineer/competent authority reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the bids or withdrawn from tendering without assigning any reason thereto.
11. If the date of opening of tender is declared a holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day on same time.
12. Contractor has to submit the working programme/working schedule, name of authorized representative to received the instruction form the Engineer and sign the formal agreement with the Engineer-in-charge i.e. Executive Engineer within 15 days of award of work.

Executive Engineer HPSIDC Ltd. Shimla for and on behalf of the Managing Director.</p