

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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OLI SEEKS FRESH IMPETUS TO STALLED REGIONAL BLOC WORLD

FITCH RAISES INDIA'S GDP FORECAST TO -9.4% IN FY21 BUSINESS

DEFENCE MINISTRY STOPS 'ILLEGAL' PAY CUT OF TROOPS BACK PAGE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

Shah meets 'select' union leaders, no breakthrough

Only 13 of 40 farm representatives invited | Today's meeting off | Bandh near total in Pb | Hry highways blocked



Farmers hold a protest against the Centre's new agriculture laws at the Tikri border in New Delhi on Tuesday amid the nationwide bandh during which emergency services remained unaffected. PTI

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

The Bharat bandh by farmers to push for revocation of the contentious farm laws disrupted life in several parts of the country with shops closed and transport suspended.

The bandh was near total in Punjab where farmers squatted on rail tracks, disrupting train services on two sections. In Haryana, several highways were blocked. Shops, businesses and grain markets remained deserted at most places in Punjab and at many in Haryana.

As the day came to an end, with the bandh largely peaceful, Home Minister Amit Shah sprung a surprise, inviting unions to a meeting ahead of the scheduled sixth round of talks on Wednesday, apparently to sound them on



Shutters down at a market in Patiala. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

A CLEAR MESSAGE TO SCRAP FARM LAWS, SAYS CAPT

the "Centre's proposal". The invitation caused a divide among the unions. Only 13 of the 40 unions taking part in the talks with the Centre were invited and the largest, the BKU Ekta (Ugrahan), was not one of them.

CONG: NEW FARM LAWS DON'T REFLECT REFORMS

New Delhi: Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Tuesday said there was a need for agricultural reforms, but the current farm laws did not reflect any reform and needed to be scrapped. BACK PAGE

OPPN DELEGATION TO MEET PRESIDENT TODAY

New Delhi: A five-member delegation of Oppn parties will meet President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday to seek the repeal of the farm laws. It will comprise Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, D Raja, Sitaram Yechury and TKS Elangovan. TNS

US LAWMAKERS VOICE SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

New Delhi: Several members of the US House of Representatives have come out in support of farmers. Republican Congressman Doug LaMalfa said he stood in solidarity with Punjabi farmers protesting for their livelihood. BACK PAGE

However, officials claimed that "significant ground" had been achieved with those keen on finding a "middle path". The government now plans to send a proposal to the farm unions on Wednesday for a discussion at noon.

Farm leader Hannan Molah said the scheduled talks with Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Piyush Goyal would not be held.

Though Shah proposed another round of talks on December 10, the unions said they would take a decision after studying the Centre's proposal.

President of the Kranikari Kisan Union Darshan Pal said: "The government is willing to make some amendments but won't roll back the laws.

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Pb's largest kisan union not invited

VISHAV BHARTI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 8

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chose not to invite Punjab's biggest farm organisation, the BKU (Ugrahan), for talks on Tuesday. On November 27, when the union began its march to Delhi, Shah had called up its president Joginder Singh Ugrahan, inviting him to "informal" talks, which the latter declined.

On Tuesday, Shah invited 13 organisations, including nine from Punjab. He seems to have deliberately ignored the BKU (Ugrahan). Ugrahan claimed that such attempts to "divide" Punjab's farmers had been made in the past too.

The buzz since Sunday was that the farm unions had been approached by Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for parleys and had sought a list of their representatives. This triggered a debate among the 32 unions as they had already rejected a similar proposal for talks earlier.

Sources said six organisations, including the Kirti Kisan Union, Bharti Kisan Union (Kranikari) and Doaba Kisan Union, opposed any "informal" talks, arguing the government was trying to divide the farmers.

IN BRIEF



5G rollout in second half of 2021: Ambani

NEW DELHI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday hinted at rolling out 5G telecom services in the second half of 2021. He said policy steps were needed to accelerate the early rollout of ultra-high-speed 5G services that were affordable and available everywhere. BUSINESS



Justice Bindal posted Acting CJ of J&K HC

CHANDIGARH: Justice Rajesh Bindal was on Tuesday appointed the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K. The appointment follows retirement of Chief Justice Gita Mittal. A notification regarding his appointment was issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. INSIDE

HP orchardists too seek MSP

SUBHASH RAJTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 8

Lending support to the farmers' agitation, the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh too have raised the demand for a minimum support price for their produce.

"There should be MSP for apple too," said Harish Chauhan, president of the Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers Growers Association of Himachal Pradesh.

Progressive Growers Association president Lokender Bisht said private players should not be allowed to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

NZ shooter 'visited' India before attack

Licence for some vaccines in few wks

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

With nine vaccines at different stages of development and three under consideration by the drug regulator for emergency approval, the Centre today said some vaccines would get a licence in the next few weeks and the vaccination drive would start thereafter "at the earliest".

Pfizer India, Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech vaccines are pending with the Central Drug Standards Control Organisation, which will examine safety data before granting any licence for use in India.

"We hope a decision on licences will be taken expeditiously without compromising on scientific rigour. We urge people to trust our institutions when they say a cer-

UK's 90-yr granny world's first to get Pfizer shot



Margaret Keenan receives the Pfizer-BioNTech shot on Tuesday. PTI

VACCINE FOR EVERYONE BUT HEALTH STAFF PRIORITY

The government said everyone needing a vaccine would get one, but three categories would be inoculated first—health workers, frontline workers and those above 50 years of age or with comorbid conditions.

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

COUNT	97,03,770
RECOVERED	91,78,946
FRESH FATALITIES	385
TOTAL	14,958
WORLD	
TOTAL	6,31,30,796
RECOVERED	4,71,90,369
DEATHS	15,54,402

tain vaccine is safe. There should be no doubt after that," VK Paul, chairman, National Expert Group on Covid Vaccine Administration said today with Congress veteran Anand Sharma asking how the regulator accepted applications from Pfizer (which has not conducted any trial for their vaccine in India) and Bharat Biotech (which hasn't shared any phase 3 trial data so far).

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, however, cited New Clinical Trial Rules-2019 to say these allow "relaxations, omissions, abbreviation, deferment of data, including local clinical trials" in emergencies like a pandemic.

The government, meanwhile, said preparations for vaccine rollout were in final stages and "everyone who

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China: Working with India for de-escalation

BEIJING, DECEMBER 8

China and India are working for further de-escalation of the border stand-off in eastern Ladakh and both sides will have consultations to determine specific arrangements for the next round of talks, a senior Chinese official said on Tuesday.

The Chinese and Indian armies held the 8th round of Corps Commander-level meeting on November 6 to resolve the border stand-off that erupted in early May.

Asked when the next round of talks would be held, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here that "China and India have been in communication through diplomatic and military channels and we

are working for further de-escalation of the border situation. Based on the implementation of current consensus, we will have consultations to determine specific arrangements for further talks."

Nearly 50,000 Indian troops are deployed in eastern Ladakh

Nearly 50,000 troops of the Indian Army are deployed in a high state of combat readiness in various mountainous locations in eastern Ladakh in sub-zero conditions. Multiple rounds of talks between the two sides have not yielded any concrete outcome yet to resolve the stand-off. — PTI

Illegal liquor unit sealed in Rajpura, ENA seized

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Kingpin held, was earlier nabbed in Ghanaur distillery case



Dipesh was earlier arrested in June for running an illegal distillery in Ghanaur. A senior police officer said: "Dipesh had gone to Uttar Pradesh to meet professional bootleggers and buy machinery for preparing liquor from ENA."

Patiala SSP Vikramjeet Duggal said: "The involvement of several persons will come to the fore as raids are still going on."

350 MBBS students skip Covid meet, suspended

KARAM PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, DECEMBER 8

The Principal of Government Medical College (GMC), Patiala, has suspended over 350 final year MBBS students for "not attending" a meeting called to discuss safety measures to check the spread of Covid.

The meeting was scheduled at 4 pm on Monday, but only a few students turned up, which reportedly angered the Principal, Dr Rajan Singla.

The suspension order mentions that "only 17 of the 225 2016 batch students and 66 of the 225 from the 2017 batch attended the meeting".

Citing an example of a college where 80 MBBS students had tested positive, the Principal said he wanted to avoid such a situation.

Asked how safe was it to call over 200 students for a meeting in an indoor auditorium,

GROSS INDISCIPLINE

Not attending an important meeting, called to discuss Covid-safety protocol, amounts to indiscipline. The students will remain suspended till further notice.

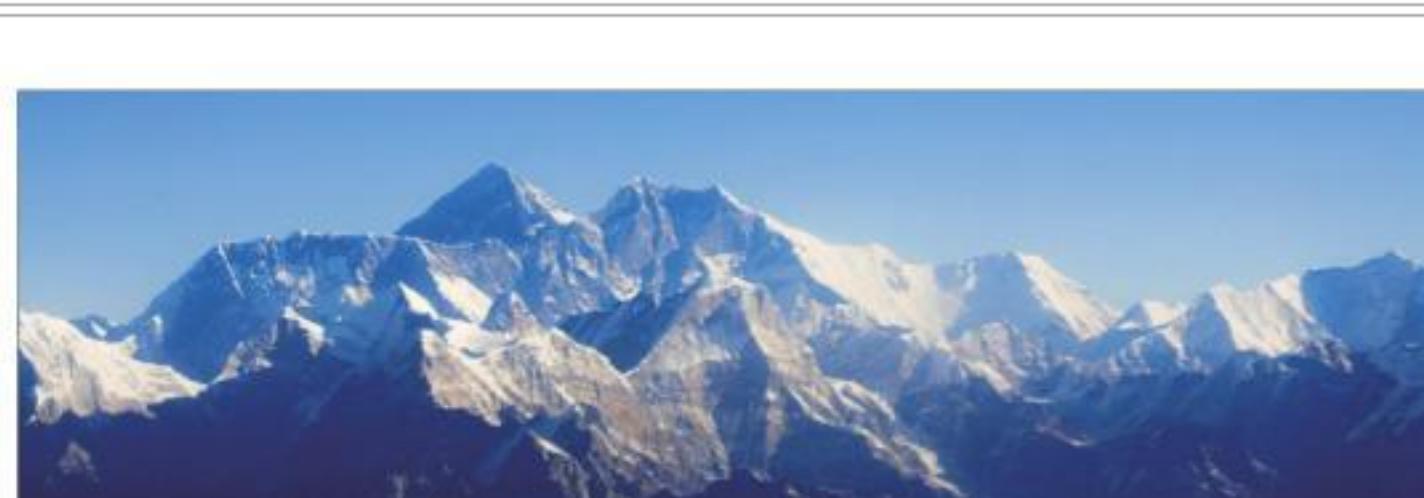
Dr Rajan Singla, GMC (Patiala) PRINCIPAL

he said, "The venue can accommodate 600 persons and minimum distancing could have been easily maintained."

The students, meanwhile, have termed the punishment "harsh" saying their studies would get affected. "Moreover, how safe is it to assemble 220 students in a closed place amid the pandemic when several of our classmates have already tested positive," asked a student.

Another student said their exams were approaching and every class, particularly practical ones, was crucial.

The exact height of the peak had been contested



Mt Everest now taller by 86 cm

KATHMANDU/BEIJING, DECEMBER 8

The world's highest peak is now taller by 86 cm, Nepal and China jointly announced on Tuesday after they re-measured Mount Everest at 8,848.86 metre, over six decades after India conducted the previous measurement in 1954.

The revised height of Mount Everest puts an end to the decades-long dispute between the two neighbours on the height of the world's tallest mountain that straddles their shared border.

The Nepal government decided to measure the exact height of the mountain as some geologists suggested

that there might have been some changes due to various reasons, including the devastating earthquake of 2015.

Mount Everest's revised height was officially announced by Nepalese and Chinese foreign ministers at a virtual event. Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi attended the virtual event.

"This is a historic day. The new height of Mt Everest is 8,848.86 m," Gyawali said while making the much-awaited announcement. — PTI

SUBHASH RAJTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 8

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"There should be MSP for apple too," said Harish Chauhan, president of the Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers Growers Association of Himachal Pradesh.

Progressive Growers Association president Lokender Bisht said private players should not be allowed to



Farmers block the Jalandhar-Delhi National Highway during the nationwide strike; a woman protests in Patiala; and children raise slogans against the Centre demanding rollback of farm laws in Amritsar on Tuesday. PHOTOS: PTI/RAJESH SACHAR/VISHAL KUMAR

Bharat bandh brings state to a standstill

Protesters block roads, highways, rail tracks | 50,000 state govt employees go on mass leave

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 8
Getting widespread support from all sections of society, the Bharat bandh called by farm organisations in protest against the BJP-led NDA government's three farm laws saw a complete shutdown in Punjab today.

The entire state echoed with the sentiments of farmers and a clarion call to repeal the laws as people in large numbers came on roads carrying placards 'no farmer, no food' to express solidarity with farmers who have been observing a peaceful protest at the Delhi borders.

The attendance in government offices was thin as over 50,000 state government employees were on a one-day mass leave in support of farmers. Dharnas organised at block levels at 60 locations by different farmer unions saw large gatherings.

In Patiala, the protesters blocked the main roads and highways. Residents sat on dharnas at various places while Youth Congress workers burnt an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Fountain Chowk in Patiala.

Around 2,000 engineers wore black badges and participated in protest rallies across the state in support of the farmers' agitation and the proposed Electricity Amendment Bill-2020. The PSEB Engineers' Association, a body



Members of farm unions block the national highway against the Central laws in Bathinda on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

VENDORS STRIKE WORK IN ABOHAR

Abohar: Milk and vegetable vendors also responded to the Bharat Bandh call here on Tuesday. All markets remained shut, roads wore a deserted look, vehicles remained off the road and street vendors didn't turn up. All medical stores remained closed till 11 am, while some opened later. Most private schools were closed as the Recognised and Affiliated Schools' Association supported the bandh call. OC



DOCS JOIN STIR IN FATEHGRAH SAHIB

Fatehgarh Sahib: There was a complete bandh in Mandi Gobindgarh, Sirhind, Amloh, Bassi Pathana, Khamano and Chunni towns. Even doctors and staff of the Civil Hospital in Fatehgarh Sahib observed a strike and raised slogans against the Modi government. Members of the District Bar Association suspended court work and sat on a dharna in support of farmers. TNS

of power engineers in Punjab, also supported the struggle of farmers.

The teaching faculty members and students of Punjabi University, Patiala, came together in solidarity with farmers against the Centre. Around 300 in number, they closed the entry gates of the university and held a protest.

The Patiala District Bar Association also led a march in support of bandh call of the farmers. Jatinderpal

Dr Nishan Singh Deol, president, Punjabi University Teachers' Association, Patiala, said all businessmen, students, farmers and people of other professions had come together against the farm laws.

The Patiala District Bar Association also led a march in support of bandh call of the farmers. Jatinderpal

Singh Ghumaan of the association said the Centre should find a solution to the concerns raised by farmers. "We will provide all legal help to farmers wherever required," Ghumaan said.

Health workers under the banner of the NHM Employees' Union, Punjab, also burnt the effigy of the Prime Minister. Employees of the

Pepsi Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) also participated in the Bharat bandh and staged a protest outside the PRTC bus stand.

Bathinda and Mansa witnessed a complete shutdown in support of the bandh call given by farmers.

Tension erupted in the morning during the farmers' protest at Kanhaiya Chowk in Bathinda and near a toll plaza in Jeeda village. In Moga, the farm unions staged protests at 13 locations. The continuous protest outside the silo owned by a corporate giant in Dagru village also continued on the 62nd day today. The petroleum dealers also closed the filling stations to back the call for the nationwide strike. Darshan Singh Maiserkhana and Motha Singh Kotra of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) said the Central Government brought the farm laws in haste without consulting the farm organisations. Shops and commercial establishments remained closed in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Ropar, Faridkot, Muktsar and other districts as well.

Chowk in Bathinda when protesters damaged the windscreen of a private car of an Army man. He was going to Bikaner, but as farmers had given the call of a bandh, they were not ready to allow him go further. Later, senior farmer union leaders allowed passage to the car.

The supply of essential commodities was hit badly in these areas. Fruit and vegetable markets remained closed in all the cities and towns of the Malwa belt. The supply of milk was partially affected in many areas.

Farmers blocked and staged protests at various points in Bathinda district. They blocked the Bathinda-Amritsar national highway at Kanhaiya Chowk and near a toll plaza in Jeeda village. In Moga, the farm unions staged protests at 13 locations. The continuous protest outside the silo owned by a corporate giant in Dagru village also continued on the 62nd day today. The petroleum dealers also closed the filling stations to back the call for the nationwide strike. Darshan Singh Maiserkhana and Motha Singh Kotra of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) said the Central Government brought the farm laws in haste without consulting the farm organisations. Shops and commercial establishments remained closed in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Ropar, Faridkot, Muktsar and other districts as well.

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16 trains cancelled, short-terminated

MOGA, DECEMBER 8

In view of the ongoing protests by farmers over the Central laws, the Northern Railway authorities extended the cancellation, short-termination and diversion of at least 16 trains in the state falling under the supervision of the Ferozepur Railway Division.

The Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee has blocked the track at the Jandiala Guru railway station in Amritsar and the trains to and from Amritsar were being diverted via Beas, Tarn Taran and Bhagtan Wala railway stations.

The 02715 Nanded-Amritsar Express JCO will be short terminated at New Delhi on Wednesday. Consequently, the 02716 Amritsar-Nanded express JCO will short originate from New Delhi and remain partially cancelled between New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi on December 11. The 02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Express JCO will be short terminated at Chandigarh on Wednesday. Consequently, the 02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Express JCO will short originate from Chandigarh and remain partially cancelled between Chandigarh-Amritsar-Chandigarh on December 11.

Meanwhile, in Ferozepur, the railway track at Makhu was blocked, due to which the movement of trains was affected. —TNS



Farmers block a railway track at Mau in Bathinda on Tuesday.

SGPC keeps offices shut, few turn up at Golden Temple

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 8
Farmers under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee (KMSC), Punjab, observed a 'chakka jam' on the Amritsar-Jalandhar GT road for four hours today.

Showing solidarity with farmers, Sikh bodies like the SGPC and Chief Khalsa Diwan (CKD) kept their offices and institutions closed for the day. The footfall of devotees at the Golden Temple remained low. An SGPC official said they stood by farmers against the 'rigid attitude' of the Centre. "On our part, we have been providing langar, medical aid and other services for the convenience of protesting farmers in Del-

hi," he said. CKD president Nirmal Singh said more than 50 educational institutions run by the diwan, including schools and colleges, were closed.

Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa

joined the farmers' protest at Bhandari Bridge while appealing PM Narendra Modi to concede to the rightful demand of farmers and withdraw the three contentious farm laws.

Rajewal said: "I don't want to talk about the farm laws. I only wanted to request you not to indulge in rowdy behaviour after consuming 'daaru'."

BKU (Dakaunda) general secretary Jagmohan Singh Patiala said: "We are aware about the unpleasant behavioural aberration of certain youngsters and are working on it." BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Shingara Singh Mann said: "These youngsters have come independently.

"I am shocked to see youth loitering aimlessly at night and indulging in rowdy behaviour... They

Moga man dies of cardiac arrest at protest in Delhi

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, DECEMBER 8
A 48-year old man, identified as Mewa Singh, a resident of Khote village in Nihalsinghwala subdivision in Moga district, died of a cardiac arrest during the ongoing protest of farmers on the outskirts of Delhi in the wee hours today.

He was working as a tailor in the village. He actively participated in the ongoing protest of farmers for the past over two months.

Family sources said he was also a writer and wrote many songs for Punjabi singers. Sources in the village said he braved water cannons and tear gas shells in Haryana to



SANGRUR WOMAN PASSES AWAY

Sangrur: An elderly woman died at the Kala-jhar toll plaza due to a cardiac arrest on Tuesday. Protesters said they won't cremate the body till the family of deceased Gurmale Kaur, 70, was given adequate compensation. TNS

reach the Delhi border along with hundreds of other farmers and labourers.

A pall of gloom descended on the village on Tuesday morning when the news of Mewa Singh's demise reached here. His body is still in Delhi. Officials of the local administration claimed his body would be brought here tonight. His last rites and cremation ceremony would be done on Wednesday at his native village.

General secretary of BKU (Ekta) Sukhdev Singh Kokri urged the Punjab Government to provide financial assistance to the kin of the deceased as he was the only bread earner in the family.

Farm union leaders caution youth against 'rowdyism'

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 8
Overcoming the smear campaign of being attached with the Khalistan movement, farmer leaders are now engaged in entailing supporters to refrain from rowdy behaviour and liquor consumption in the camps on the Delhi borders at night.

Addressing a rally at the Singhu border yesterday evening, BKU (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh

Rajewal said: "I don't want to talk about the farm laws. I only wanted to request you not to indulge in rowdy behaviour after consuming 'daaru'."

BKU (Dakaunda) general secretary Jagmohan Singh Patiala said: "We are aware about the unpleasant behavioural aberration of certain youngsters and are working on it." BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Shingara Singh Mann said: "These youngsters have come independently.

"I am shocked to see youth loitering aimlessly at night and indulging in rowdy behaviour... They

are giving fuel to agencies engaged to tarnish our peaceful movement," said Rajewal.

"The ones indulging in making noises at night have nothing to do with the farmer movement. Our

movement, however, is being portrayed by interested parties as only Punjabi. We need to counter the negative publicity," he said.

Managing the stage at Tikri, Dr Gurdev Singh, said: "It gets difficult when certain people who have nothing to do with the farmer movement come and forcibly occupy the stage. They derail peaceful speeches against the farm laws after provoking religious sentiments or promoting self-interests."

NDA with corporates, not farmers: Cong

CHANDIGARH/FAZILKA, DEC 8
Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Sunil Jakhar on Tuesday said the virus of arrogance among those in power was a major threat to democracy in the country.

Addressing the district-level dharnas organised by the Congress at Landran to protest the farm laws, he said the Central Government was not ready to listen to the people, which was dangerous for the democracy.

Jakhar said the very foundation of democracy was a government elected by people, which was sensitive to their demands and expectations. He alleged that the BJP government at the Centre was securing the interests of corporates rather than paying heed to people's demands.

Asserting that authoritarianism had no place in democracy, the PPCC president said



Cong leaders protest outside Surjit Kumar Jyani's house in Fazilka.

though the Prime Minister was repeatedly saying that the new laws would abolish middleman in agriculture but the Central Government was itself acting as intermediary of big corporates for implementing these laws.

Meanwhile in Fazilka, Gidderbaha MLA Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and

several other Congress leaders gheraoed the residence of BJP's former Health Minister Surjit Kumar Jyani at his native Katehra village on Tuesday.

A complete bandh was observed in Fazilka town by the traders to express their solidarity with the striking farmers. —TNS

Capt: Bandh response clear message to scrap farm laws

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 8

Reiterating that the farm laws were anti-farmer and were introduced without any discussion with the stakeholders, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said the unity showcased by the farmers through the Bharat bandh had underscored the need for repeal of the laws, followed by a detailed discussion on agricultural reforms.

Congratulating farmers for ensuring peace during the Bharat bandh today, the Chief Minister cautioned them against elements that could try to take advantage of their agitation and spoil the peaceful atmosphere of the state.

NOT AGAINST PRIVATE PLAYERS

“Nobody is stopping private players from purchasing. But it can't be allowed at the cost of the well-established system, which has stood the farmers in good stead all these decades. Capt Amarinder Singh, CM



The Chief Minister asked why the Central Government could not heed the demands of the farmers agitating across the country to scrap these laws and hold fresh talks with all stakeholders. “Had I been in their place I would not have taken a minute to accept my mistake and revoke the laws,” he added.

Asserting that the whole country was with the farmers in their pain and in their

fight for survival, Capt Amarinder said the Central Government should allow the existing system to continue instead of scrapping the arthiya and mandi system, which the farm laws intended to do. There was no reason why the Central Government could not listen to the farmers, who were braving the cold, and send them home happily after resolving their concerns, said Capt

Amarinder. This was what he had told Union Home Minister Amit Shah too, he said, adding that he urged Shah to do everything possible to resolve the concerns of the poor farmers in their interest, and also in the interest of India's security.

Rejecting the BJP's allegation that the Congress manifesto had also talked about scrapping the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, the Chief Minister said his party or the Manmohan Singh government never said the existing system should be discontinued. The Congress manifesto spoke about modernisation and not about doing away with what we have, he added.

Centre treading dangerous path, says Akali Dal

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, DECEMBER 8

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Tuesday fully supported the call for Bharat bandh by the farmers and their organisations against the three farm laws.

Chandumajra, who led the protest near Gurdwara Sahib Singh Shaheedan, Sohna, said the strategy of the Union Government to drag, hang and exhaust the peasant struggle would prove to be dangerous for the peace and economy of the country.

He said the success of Bharat bandh was a great lesson to the Central Government in meeting the demands of the farmers. He said the Central Government should focus on repealing the three laws instead of advocating for them.

441 MBBS seats declared vacant for second round of counselling

BALWANT GARG

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, DECEMBER 8

After the first phase of MBBS counselling in the state to fill 1,425 seats in nine medical colleges, a total of 441 seats were declared vacant today after all medical colleges submitted the list of surrendered seats to the Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS).

For the second phase of counselling to fill these seats, the BFUHS has invited applications from the students.

A large number of medical aspirants have surrendered their seats due to hike in the tuition fee. For the second round, Adesh medical college

Due to Covid, colleges facing a shortage of NRI candidates

has offered 111 MBBS seats. The college has total 150 MBBS seats. In SGRDMC, Amritsar, of 150 MBBS seats, 79 have been declared vacant.

Total number of vacant MBBS seats in government medical colleges (GMCs) at Faridkot, Amritsar and Patiala is 24, 35 and 43, respectively. There are 24 vacant seats in the DMC, Ludhiana, 18 in CMC, Ludhiana, 52 in PIMS, Jalandhar

and 55 in Gian Sagar, Banur.

Due to Covid, all medical colleges in the state are facing shortage of NRI candidates.

All nine medical colleges in Punjab offer 160 NRI quota MBBS seats, the BFUHS has declared 129 vacant.

It is the DMC, Ludhiana, which has minimum (5) NRI seats vacant. The number of vacant NRI quota seats in GMCs at Faridkot, Patiala, Amritsar is 19, 13 and 13, respectively. Among the private medical colleges, Gian Sagar, Adesh, PIMS and SGRD have 23, 22, 22 and 12 vacant seats, respectively.

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 8

The police have suspended Khandawala police chowki in-charge Sub-Inspector (SI) Sarwan Singh and arrested four persons in connection with the mysterious death of ASI Gurnam Singh.

The police have booked seven persons, including Lawrence Road police chowki in-charge Manjot Singh, on the charges of abetting suicide. Manjot was still at large. He was immediately suspended by Police Commissioner Sukhchain Singh Gill following the registration of the case.

A special investigation team (SIT) headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Sandeep Malik

is probing the case. ACP Dev Dutt Sharma and Chheharta police station SHO Rajwinder Kaur are the other two SIT members.

Besides Manjot Singh, others who have been booked in the case include Amrit Lal, Aarti, Meenu, Rajni, Puja and Bablu, all residents of Dhakka Colony falling under Chheharta police station here. They were booked following a protest by the family members of ASI Gur- naman Singh and the residents of Dhakka Colony.

Though the role of the SI was under investigation, he has been suspended and shifted to the Police Lines till the probe was on.

SI suspended, 4 held

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ASI'S DEATH CASE

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Though the role of the SI was under investigation, he has been suspended and shifted to the Police Lines till the probe was on.

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203

Ph.: 01639 - 256232, 256236

ADMISSION NOTICE - ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ALL INDIA QUOTA REVERTED SEATS UNDER NEET UG - 2020

Online applications are invited from NEET qualified candidates (Bonafide Residents of Punjab) who have not applied/ registered earlier, alongwith requisite fee for ALL India quota reverted seats up to 10.12.2020 (by 5.00 pm). For details and updates visit at www.bfuhs.ac.in

REGISTRAR

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LIMITED
(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)
Vishweshwaraiya Bhawan, Vibhut Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Project Manager, Electrical Unit Meenut Invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the following work:
NIT No.: 1198/RNN/E-E-Tender/Meerut/2020 dated 05.12.2020
Name of Work : S.I.T.C. OF 15 PASSENGER LIFT WORK IN FURN UNIT AT LL.R.M. MEDICAL COLLEGE MEERUT (U.P.) Estimated Bid Value : Rs.17.66 Lakh (Included GST)
Earnest Money: Rs.0.35 Lakh. Period of Completion : 02 Months from the date of agreement. Last time and date of submission of Bid-Date 26.12.2020 At time 05:00 PM.
The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website : <https://etender.up.nic.in>. The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprrn.co.in>.

HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
NAAC ACCREDITED "A" GRADE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GYAN PATH, SUMMER HILL, SHIMLA-5

E-TENDER NOTICE

Director, University Institute of Technology, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5 on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor intends to purchase the Laboratory Equipments (Electronics & Communication Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Civil Engineering) for which online bids are invited from Manufacturers/Authorised Distributors. The Document can be downloaded from websites i.e. www.hptenders.gov.in, www.hpuniv.ac.in and www.uitt.ac.in from 09-12-2020 to 30-12-2020 till 5:00 PM. Extension, corrigendum or change in schedule if any, will not be published in newspapers & it will be published on the websites i.e. www.hptenders.gov.in. For more detail please contact: 0177-2832571 and 94180-03066.
(Prof. P. L. Sharma), Director

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR
Only University of Punjab to have earned "Category-I" Status
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4th ADMISSION NOTICE 2020-21

DIRECTORATE OF OPEN & DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL)
Applications are invited for admission to various courses under Directorate of Open & Distance Learning, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Visit the Directorate website (<http://odl.gndu.ac.in>) for filling of online application form and further details.

Under Graduate Degree	B. Com, BCA
Post Graduate Degree	B. Lib, MCA, MBA, M. Com, MA (English), MA (Punjabi)
UG Diploma	Diploma in Computer Applications (DCA)
PG Diploma	PG Diploma in Applied Nutrition (PGDAN), PG Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM), PG Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA), and PG Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication (PGDJMC)

Last date for admission has been extended up to 31st December 2020.
For any enquiry, please contact the Directorate office via email odl@gndu.ac.in or via phone +91-7696359389
Dean, Academic Affairs

Balwinder's wife seeks paramilitary security



Jagdish Kaur cites terror threat to family

terrorism in Punjab.

Ever since the murder (of her husband), the police had been repeatedly calling it an outcome of personal enmity and we had been saying that it was a terrorist act, she said. The police questioned her sons Ganagdeep Singh and Arashdeep Singh many times, causing harassment to them, she alleged.

Dhruman H Nimble, SSP, said the police probed the case in a scientific and transparent manner. “We are trying to contact the Delhi Police for seeking details of the probe and the basis of their findings. The Delhi Police were calling the shooters of Balwinder as militants having links with further foreign militants.

Besides, Balwinder, his wife Jagdish Kaur, brother-in-law and his wife were also honoured with the Shaurya Chakra by the President for their fight against the militancy during the heydays of



International ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

9 December, 2020

“Corruption is a curse which hampers the progress of any country. It is the duty of every citizen to completely root out corruption. So let's take a pledge to perform our duties with utmost honesty & dedication and help in building a corruption free society.”
- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Say NO to Corruption



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Let's fight together against Coronavirus

CLASSIFIEDS**SITUATION VACANT**

Wanted BA, B.Ed. with TET (must) Teachers for Primary School. Contact: Shining Stars School, Moga. Phone: 98725-98117. (CL20071208)

Required full time Accountant
B.Com. Knowledge of GST, Income tax & MS office. Contact: Malhotra Hardware Stores, Jalandhar. 9815206811, 9814061811. (CL20068833)

Urgently required Gynaecologist
Radiologist or Laparoscopic surgeon at Dogra Hospital Mukerian district Hoshiarpur, annual package minimum Rs. eighteen lac only. Contact: 98724-62863. (CL20069251)

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Laparoscopic Surgeon, Gynaecologist, Obstetrician, Pediatrician, Neurosurgeon, Gastroenterologist, Neurologist, Nephrologist, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Anaesthetist, RMO, Ultrasound, Radiologist, Nurses, Dialysis Technician for 250 Bedded Hospital, Bhagwan Das Hospital, Omaxe City, Sonipat. Contact: 98112-07171, b.d.h.2018@gmail.com (CL20069231)

Walk in Interview, KC Group of Institutions, Pandoga (Una) on 17 Dec. 2020 at 0900 Hrs for Professor/ Associate/ Assistant Professor/ Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Hotel Management, Polytechnic. Eligibility: UGC/ AICTE/ PCI/ HPU Shimla/ HPTU Hamirpur, HPTBS Dhamashala & HP Govt. norms. Query 98050-95101, kcpandoga@kcinstitutes.com (CL20071106)

Required approved manufacturing chemist & approved analytical chemist highly experienced in oral liquids & topical preparations pharmaceutical plant higher salary for experienced candidates. Apply ASPEN Life Sciences, Plot 57, Nagkalan Industrial Area, Majithia Road, Amritsar (P.B.). aspen.asr@gmail.com 98761-92466, 98722-05590. (CL20071178)

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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Indian Public School, Ambala-Delhi Highway, Mohra, Ambala (Affiliated to CBSE). Website: http://www.ipssambala.com, Phone: 70823-00689. Invites experienced and qualified candidates for the post of PGT Mathematics (M.Sc., B.Ed.). Qualification and experience: Salary will be commensurate with age, experience and qualification of the candidates. Proficiency in spoken and written English is a pre-requisite for the candidates. Computer knowledge is must. Post your resume at recruitmentcell@gmail.com (CL20069564)

UGC NET faculty required for all subjects of B.Ed., Law and Agriculture in Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura near Chandigarh. Mail your resumes to careers@aryans.edu.in (CL20070080)

Required urgently Sales Executives, Sales Manager, Marketing Manager having well experience in FMCG, Frozen Food, Hotel & HORECA Segment for a well reputed company. Call 81989-0740, or hr@pyramidcafe.in (CL20070205)

Jai Vatika Public School, Barnala (affiliated to CBSE) is looking for Admission Counsellor, Senior Coordinator, Graphic Designer and PGT/ TGT- English, who have good command on the subject, excellent communication skills. Salary will not be constraint for the deserving candidates. In-campus accommodation for outstation candidates. Mail your resume at jobs@jvps.ac.in. Contact: 75081-81681. (CL20070674)

Walk in Interview for QA Executive for Nahan location: Immediate joining. Salary: 10,000 to 15,000 per month. Minimum 1-2 years required (should be from same field). Good experience in the Q.A. functions of Tablets & Capsules, injections and eye drops. Good knowledge BMR. Good documentation skills. Direct Walk in Venue: 05th December - 20th December, 10:30 am- 5:00 pm. Sunvet Healthcare, Village Shambhuwala Paonta Road Nahan. Email: healthcaresunvet@gmail.com Mob. 921860-2040. (CL20070937)

PE Teacher for SS required. B.P.Ed or relevant qualification as per CBSE. Eklavya School, Nakodar Road, Jalandhar. Email resume: hr@eklavyaschooljal.org (CL20071151)

Star Plus Convent School Bangi Road, Ram 151301, Bathinda (P.B.). A Senior Secondary School (CBSE) Requires Teachers for the following subjects Pol. Sci., English, Punjabi, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Hindi. handsome salary as per qualification and experience. Transport facility available from Bathinda and nearby places. Walk-in interview on 13th December 2020 between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Sepal Hotel, Bathinda. E-mail: vks.spc@gmail.com Contact: 85588-48073. (CL20071157)

ADMISSION GUIDANCE

Consult for Ph.D. (all streams)
LL.B., LL.M., BA, MA, B.Com., M.Com., BBA, MBA, B.Tech., M.Tech., Pharmacy, B.Ed., 10th, +2, Distance/ regular. Call 95019-03221, 76558-56658. (CL20070861)

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Required MD Medicine, ENT Specialist, Lapro Surgeon, RMO's (MBBS) for 100 bed superspecialty hospital at Moga. Emoluments best in the field. 98726-70665. (CL20070861)

PROPERTY

Industrial property for sale at Mohali (Punjab), Plot area 22,000 SM. Builtup 70,000 SF. Contact 98338-34482, 022-67214545. (CL20070861)

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"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."

STAFF SHORTAGE, GLITCH IN PORTAL

Sources in the MC said the shortage of employees, particularly JEs, and a technical glitch in the portal are the reasons behind the delay in the disbursement of instalments.

In the absence of employees, the geo-tagging to track the construction activities is not being carried out smoothly, leading to delay in disbursement

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Several beneficiaries have been making rounds to the offices of the MC in Nehru Palace and also to the residences of the councillors concerned. A 55-year-old widow Saroj Bala of Ward 15 has been running from pillar to post for the instalment for the repair of her house, but to no avail.

"I had applied for the scheme in 2018. But even after

three to four inspections, I have not received a single instalment under this scheme. The roof of my house collapsed last year, but despite this, I was not given the benefit of this scheme," she added.

Yudhveer Saini, councillor of Ward 15, where the maximum beneficiaries had been identified, said that there was a problem in the portal as well.

Most of the people had applied for renovation of their houses, but the portal was showing that they had applied for a new house. "I had raised this issue with Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and requested him to resolve the issue," he said.

Parveen Kumar Chugh, city project officer, said that they were making payments to the beneficiaries after complete verification through geo-tagging. So far, they have made payments of around Rs 1.05 crore while a payment of Rs 30 lakh would be disbursed in a couple of days.

Vikram Singh, Municipal Commissioner, said that earlier, they were facing shortage of JEs conducting geo-tagging to track the construction of each household.

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Parveen

Expect heavy rain, snow on Dec 12

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 8
The local MeT office today warned of heavy rain or snowfall at isolated places in mid and higher hills on December 12 and predicted the wet spell to continue till December 13.

Rain and snow is likely in higher hills for the next five days while mid hills are expected to experience rain and snow from December 9 to December 13, barring December 10. The weather will be clear from December 14 onwards. Cold wave conditions persisted in the region as there was no significant change in the mercury. Keylong in tribal Lahaul and Spiti district was the coldest in the region with the minimum temperature at -1.3°C. The maximum temperatures fluctuated marginally and Una was the hottest with a high of 27.2°C.

Just one gynaecologist for 6L Chamba women

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHAMBA, DECEMBER 8
Primary healthcare in Chamba, which was accorded the 'aspirational district' tag by the Central Government in 2018, has crumbled due to an acute shortage of doctors.

For nearly six lakh women in the district, there is only one gynaecologist in the government hospitals while there are no specialists in the tribal areas of Bharmour and Pangi, which remain cut off from the rest of the district during the winter.

As per the data collected by *The Tribune*, most primary health centres and community health centres in the district are without a doctor. There are seven 100-bed Civil Hospitals at Chowari, Dalhousie, Salooni, Kehar, Tissa, Bharmour and Killar in the district. However, there was only one



The Bharmour Civil Hospital, which caters to the tribal areas of the Pangi valley, has no medical specialist. TRIBUNE PHOTO

gynaecologist posted at the Salooni Civil Hospital, Killar and Bharmour Civil Hospitals, which cater to the tribal areas of the Pangi valley and Bharmour, have no medical specialist. Sources said that the district health authorities had created delivery points in the form of dispensaries at various places to encourage women for institutional delivery. However, there was an acute short-

age of doctors and medical staff in these dispensaries.

A senior administrative official said that no government official wanted to serve in the district. There was only one staff nurse at the delivery point in the Sanot area, who got herself transferred.

CMO, Chamba, Dr Rajesh Guleri admits that there is just one gynaecologist in the district government hospitals.

Toll factory fire rises to 3

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, DECEMBER 8
Death toll in Monday's fire incident at Yash Fans and Appliances industrial unit at Katha village in Baddi rose to three after the skeletal remains of two more persons were found today.

Commandant, Home Guards, Shiv Kumar Sharma, who supervised the firefighting operations, said that the firefighters recovered the skeletal remains of two persons from the rubble in the boiler section around 9.50 am and at noon.

The factory management had failed to convey to the police how many workers were stuck inside the plant when the fire broke out. Since the next shift was to begin at 9 am, cleaning was underway when the fire erupted.

Sharma said that the skeletal remains appear to be of the two women labourers who were reported missing yesterday.



HPCC chief Kuldeep Rathore along with party workers protest in support of farmers in Shimla on Tuesday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

Bharat bandh a failure: CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 8
Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today said that the Bharat bandh called by a few farmer leaders supported by the opposition parties was a complete failure in Himachal Pradesh. He said that the bandh had no impact in the state as traffic movement remained normal and smooth, barring a few incidents of road blockade by Congress and CPM leaders in Shimla town.

He said that the opposition leaders failed miserably to garner the support of common people, who know that the new agricultural laws passed by the Central Government were beneficial for the farmers. He added that the NDA Government was committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022 and was taking various pro-farmer decisions in this direction to make them self-reliant.

Thakur said that the opposition parties were desperately trying to rouse up the issue in a bid to remain politically alive. These parties were now opposing the three farm laws though they had given their full support to the Bills in the previous UPA Government led by Manmohan Singh.

Congress resorts to 'chakka jam'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 8
The Congress today staged a protest and resorted to a 'chakka jam' against the three farm laws to extend its wholehearted support to the agitating farmers.

Himachal Pradesh State Congress Committee (HPCC) president Kuldeep Rathore led the protest here, and the party leaders resorted to a 'chakka jam' near the lift. He was accompanied by party MLAs Harshwardhan Chauhan and Nand Lal, both HPCC vice-presidents, and HPCC general secretary Mohan Lal Brakta, state Mahila Congress president Janeb Chandel, and Jatinder Chaudhary.

Rathore said that the Congress staged protests all over the state while strictly adhering to the norms of social distancing and the maximum limit of 50 persons. "We expected the Central Government to tackle Covid effectively but on the contrary, it passed the farm Bills in a haste despite opposition from all quarters," he said. He alleged that these laws were anti-farmer.

Rathore said that the BJP had meted out a shabby treatment to the farmers, who feed the nation. Harshwardhan said that the Congress fully supported the farmers and would stand with them till the Centre repealed the farm laws.

Opportunity for Civil Engineers Extension in Last Date

The Corporation had invited applications for the post of Manager (IA) on contract basis. The last date for submission of applications was **22.09.2020**.

Due to administrative reasons, another opportunity to apply to the interested eligible candidates is being given. The completed application forms along with supporting documents may be submitted by **21.12.2020** through e-mail ID on hrd.ho@hsiiidc.org.in. Candidates who had already applied, need not apply again.

For application form and other detailed terms and conditions, the brochure can be downloaded from the website www.hsiidc.org.in

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

A State Government Undertaking

Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector 6, Panchkula,

Ph. 0172-2567103, 2590481-83, Fax: 2590474,

E-mail: contactus@hsiiidc.org.in CIN: U29199HR1967SGC034545

Website: hsiiidc.org.in /HSIIDCharyana

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 11/12/2020, 12/12/2020 Dated: 09.12.2020

Online Recruitment Applications (ORA) are invited from desirous and eligible candidates for recruitment to the following posts through ORA, which shall be available on the Commission's website www.hppsc.hp.gov.in/hppsc up to 05.01.2020 till 11:59 p.m., thereafter link will be disabled. (*by using official website www.hppsc.hp.gov.in/hppsc)

Various Posts

Advertisement No.	Department	Post	Pay Scale	Category Wise No. of Posts
11/12/2020	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL)	Fixed Amt Rs 27750	ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION=02, OBC OF HP=02, OBC OF HP (EX-SERVICEMEN OF HP (AFTER COMPLETION FULL TENURE OR ON MEDICAL GROUND))=01, SCHEDULED CASTE OF HP=03, SCHEDULED CASTE OF HP (EX-SERVICEMEN OF HP (AFTER COMPLETION FULL TENURE OR ON MEDICAL GROUND))=01, UNRESERVED=09, UNRESERVED (EX-SERVICEMEN OF HP (AFTER COMPLETION FULL TENURE OR ON MEDICAL GROUND))=06.
12/12/2020	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSISTANT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)	15600-39100 (G.P. 5400)	SCHEDULED TRIBE OF HP=1, UNRESERVED =1

Applications received through any other mode will not be accepted and will be rejected straightway. Essential qualification(s), eligibility conditions and examination fees etc., have been mentioned in the detailed advertisement and instructions for filling up online recruitment applications are available on the above referred website.

Sd/- (Ashutosh Garg), I.A.S.
Secretary,
H.P. Public Service Commission.
Tel. No.: 0177-2623786.

DI-15659

Government of India, Ministry of Coal Nominated Authority

120, F-Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001

Email: nomauthority.moc@nic.in, Website: <http://www.coal.nic.in>

Notice Inviting Tender

Invitation of Bids for Auction of Coal Mines/ Blocks for Sale of Coal

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4(1) and 4(2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Rule 8(2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules 2014 and the Rule 3(1) of the Coal Blocks Allocation Rules, 2017 respectively, the Nominated Authority conducted the first attempt of 11th Tranche of Auction under CM (SP) Act and 1st Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act of identified coal mines/blocks vide tender document dated June 18, 2020. However, since the number of Technically Qualified Bidders pursuant to this tender process were less than 2 for Chendipada & Chendipada-II, Kuraloi (A) North and Seregarha Coal Mines, the tender process for these Coal Mines were annulled vide notice dated September 30, 2020.

Pursuant to Para 2.2.(b) of the Office Memorandum No. CBA2-13011/2/2020-CBA2 dated June 1, 2020 issued by Ministry of Coal, the Nominated Authority is initiating the second attempt of auction of these Coal Mines with the same terms and conditions as in the first annulled attempt of auction i.e. vide tender document dated June 18, 2020, and with the highest Initial Offer of Technically Qualified Bidder, if any, in the first annulled attempt of auction as the Floor Price for the second attempt of auction.

Accordingly, bids are invited in **digital format** only from the eligible companies in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Tender Document: Detailed Tender Document can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/coalblock/index.jsp>). Timelines for the tender process have also been provided on the website of MSTC Limited.

For the coal extracted from the coal mine/block, there shall be no restriction on the sale and/or utilisation of coal including captive consumption, sale to affiliates, coal gasification, coal liquefaction and export of coal. Interested and eligible companies can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible companies will obtain Login ID and password necessary for participation in the tender process. **Last date for purchase of Tender Document** after payment of a fee of Rs. 5,00,000 (Rs. Five Lakh only) per mine/block on MSTC Limited website is **09.12.2020**.

Last date for submission of bid on 12.01.2021 in accordance with the timelines provided. Bidders will not be allowed to submit their bids beyond stipulated date and time. For any query/clarification kindly contact the Nominated Authority at the contact details mentioned above in the advertisement.

davp 04101/11/0036/2021

504 more test Covid positive

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 8

At least 504 Covid cases were reported today and 14 persons died of the infection.

Four persons died in Mandi, Kangra (3), Shimla (2), Chamba (2), Hamirpur (2) and Solan (1). — TNS

Boat capsizes in Gobind Sagar Lake, 3 dead

The fourth occupant swam to safety

di village, Karnail Singh, aka Kala (38), a resident of Thana Kalan village, and Deepak (24), a resident of

Thada panchayat, all in Bangana subdivision of Una district.

The fourth occupant of the boat, Jeevan Kumar (40), a resident of Nurgadhi in Bangana subdivision, managed to swim to safety. Bangana Sub-Divisional

Magistrate (SDM) Vishal Sharma said that Deepak's body had been recovered and efforts were being made to recover the other two bodies as well. He added that the four persons had taken the boat for a joy ride. — OC

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-24/UMB-2020-21 DATED 08.12.2020

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S. N.	Name of work	Date of Closing/ Opening	Approx. Cost	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Tender ID	Cost of form
1.	Electrical work in connection with Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for DG sets of different make and capacity installed at Power Depots (for 03 Years) over Ambala Division.	30.12.2020	Rs. 5288244.30	93,69,823/-	1,26,200/-	36 Months	2020-HP1PHT-42936_1	800/-
2.	Electrical work in connection with Repair to water supply system at Kumerhatti, safety Camp & Dhamrupur station in the section of SSE/WKLK under ADEN/SML over Ambala Division	30.12.2020	Rs. 447289.45	44,7289.45	Rs. 9000/-	03 Months	2020-HP1PHT-42936_2	NIL

1. Tenderer(s) are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. Required Earnest Money & Tender Document Cost will be acceptable On-Line payment through Net Banking/ Payment Gateway payment only well before & upto 15.00 hrs. of closing date & time of tender.

2. For Open tender at S. No. 1: As a proof of technical experience/competence, the tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: Three similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or Two similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender.

Definition of Similar Nature of Work to be considered for the above work at S. No. 1:

*Repair work of DG sets of specified capacity or above with/without AMF panel *Or

Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of DG sets with/without AMF panel and with or without AMC

3. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders.

4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

No. 30-Elect/T/Notice/14/2020-21 Dated: 08.12.2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2738/20

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Central Vista project

Govt needs to follow due process, remove doubts

FOLLOWING the Supreme Court's go-ahead, PM Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Central Vista project tomorrow. Granting the nod, albeit reluctantly, the Bench took the Union government to task for proceeding with the construction 'so aggressively'. The government has now assured the court that no construction or demolition work would be done till the latter decides the pending pleas challenging the 'change of land use' and other permissions given by the authorities. The Centre's eagerness to go ahead with the stone-laying ceremony of a project mired in litigation is no doubt questionable. Having set an inauguration deadline of August 2022 for the new Parliament building, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of Independence, the government has been in a tearing hurry to set things in motion without even waiting for the court verdict.

Under the mega redevelopment plan, a triangular building with a seating capacity of 1,200 will be raised at an estimated cost of around Rs 1,000 crore. The Opposition has been quick to question this 'extravagance' amid the Covid pandemic, especially when the payment of local area development (MPLAD) funds to parliamentarians has been stopped for two years as part of a major cost-cutting exercise.

It is hoped that judicial scrutiny will turn the spotlight on the alleged irregularities taking place on the ground. In September, the Delhi Government had given permission for the translocation of 400-odd trees from the site to eight pockets near India Gate. However, there are reports that the trees are being transplanted at a spot over 20 km away in violation of the authorities' approval. The government needs to clear the air on this matter as well as the contentious issues related to environmental and other clearances, besides transparently giving details of the construction or demolition that has already taken place. Creating a veil of secrecy and riding roughshod over the rules can undermine this ambitious project. The new 'temple of democracy', which India would like to showcase proudly before the world as a post-colonial creation, should not be allowed to fall prey to controversy.

Vaccine rollout for Covid

Safety protocol ought to be in place

WITH the better part of the year having been spent fighting the pandemic, that the country is now on the verge of launching a vaccination programme for Covid-19, will sound encouraging despite the enormity of the task. The vaccine for the virus is being made possible with painstaking research, both on an indigenous basis and with foreign collaboration. But in a country with as huge a population as India, administering the vaccine to target groups will come with its fair share of challenges. Already, talks are on with companies abroad to arrange for storage, with some like the Pfizer-made jab, requiring very low temperatures for safekeeping.

Also, vaccines have to be safe, effective and reliable. While the example of an 87-year-old Indian-origin man, Hari Shukla, being among the first to get the vaccine in Britain is heartening, the case of Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij testing positive for Covid-19, despite being administered the first dose of the trial vaccine, is bound to raise questions about the safety protocol and efficacy. The two-dose vaccine will also need watching out for any adverse effect. While the government may be right in pointing out the need to give the first dose to frontline healthcare workers because they are more at risk, administering the vaccine will also mean adding to the workload of the healthcare staff, already stretched because of the outbreak.

There are plans to use mobile technology to reach the vaccine, especially in remote and rural areas, besides those on the margins. Digital technology no doubt helped negotiate the tough conditions in the aftermath of the pandemic, but that the vaccine will have to be administered physically means that technology will ultimately act only as a facilitator, for human interface will still be required. It will also mean technology upgrade even as health experts believe tele-consultation is no substitute for a physical check-up. As India narrows down its choice of vaccines, their suitability will depend in terms of pricing, storage and transport. Mass vaccination is also going to take time, well into the next year. It promises to be a long road ahead.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Farming looks easy when your plough is a pencil and you are a thousand miles from a corn field. — Dwight D Eisenhower

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1920

The Other Side.

THE other day, we had published what a self-satisfied Lieutenant-Governor thinks of British rule in India. That is one side of the picture. The other side is thus stated, also by an Englishman, and one far better known to, and holding a far higher position in the public life of, his country than any Lieutenant-Governor: "Without entering into a detailed discussion as to the character of British rule in India or as to how far it is responsible for the conditions existing in that unhappy country, one is justified in stating some tragic facts. Once among the rich countries of the world, India is today one of the poorest. The average income per head works out at about £2 a year. Half the population lives on one meal a day. Disease decimates millions of her people every year. The average life in India is 23 years. If the domination of one race by another has not caused this terrible state of affairs, it has not prevented it." In these lines, Mr. Ben Spoor draws a picture of the present condition of India, which has been drawn by our own leaders. Some of the statements have been stoutly contested in the past by the representatives of the existing order, and will doubtless be contested today. But no amount of argument can get over the fact that India is a very poor country, in fact a much poorer country than any other within which she can be properly compared either as regards the number, industry and the general intelligence of her population, or as regards the fertility of her soil and the material resources in which she abounds, that the amount of ignorance and illiteracy in the country is truly colossal, that she is more subject to the influence of disease and premature death than any other country in the civilised world, and that industrially she is incomparably more backward than any other country in her position, whether in the East or the West. As Mr. Spoor points out, it is not necessary to argue that all this is the result of British rule.

Glaring flaws in farm laws

No farmer, big or small, will be in a position to match legal resources of 'large retailers'



PRITAM SINGH

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OXFORD BROOKES BUSINESS SCHOOL



WAY FORWARD: Future agriculture reforms ought to deal with making small-scale farming sustainable economically and ecologically. AFP

DESPITE the deadlock between the farmers and the Central government on the farming laws, there is some perceptible progress. The government's recognition of flaws in the laws needing amendments is a notable development. Such an acknowledgement must be viewed positively not as an end in itself but as a movement in the right direction. The farmers' organisations have gone through a massive educational experience through discussions between themselves, with the government, the media and academics. One admirable example of this mass public education is the work of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee from the Amritsar region in translating the three contentious farm laws into Punjabi and distributing one lakh copies among the farmers and workers. It is through such initiatives that the farmers' organisations have moved on from asking just for the provision of minimum support price (MSP) and public procurement through Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) mandis to an understanding that such piecemeal changes cannot work without changing the whole structure of the three farm laws.

The government's effort to portray these laws as empowering the farmers have failed not because of any fault of the public relations campaigns but because of the inherent content of these laws. There are limits to PR efforts in converting something to just the opposite of what it is. The spread of mass literacy

cy in India and the development of multiple forms of mass media have certainly enabled a very large section of the Indian population to differentiate between truth and falsehood presented as truth. This deserves to be celebrated as deepening of democracy in Indian institutions and practices.

Effective and truthful communication between the government and the farmers' representatives is central to strengthening the process of understanding the merits of the farmers' plea that all the three farm laws should be repealed. The farmers' argument that the mere provision of MSP and APMC public procurement that such piecemeal changes cannot work without changing the whole structure of the three farm laws.

Let us look at the contradiction between inserting the MSP provision in the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services

Act and retaining the existing provision of 'remunerative price' to be agreed upon by a farmer in a contract with 'agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters and large retailers'. If an agri-business entity were to agree to a 'remunerative price' with a farmer, such an entity will not allow him under the agreement to sell his/her crop under the MSP provision in the APMC marketing yard. Such an entity will be legally entitled to take a non-compliant farmer through the litigation process. According to the agriculture census of 2015-16, the overwhelming majority of farmers in India — 86 per cent — are marginal (with holdings below one hectare) and small (with holdings between one and two hectares). The remaining 14 per cent are described as semi-medium (2-4 hectares), medium (4-10 hectares), and large holdings of over 10 hectares.

The spread of mass literacy

understanding that these two issues cannot be delinked from the other key features of the interconnected web of the farm laws.

Though in Punjab where 33.1 per cent of land holdings are small and marginal and 33.6 per cent are semi-medium, and in Haryana where 68.5 per cent of the holdings

are small or medium, the situation appears slightly better than the all-India average one, the overall picture remains one of low bargaining power of marginal and small farmers. Leave aside the marginal and small holders, even the so-called medium and large landholders will not be in a position to match the legal resources of 'large retailers' and agro-business entities. Therefore, keeping the provision for the so-called remunerative price negates the purpose of having the MSP in the APMC mandi.

A similar contradiction emerges regarding the dispute resolution provision in the Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act. The threat of penalty ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 10 lakh if a contract is contravened and a further penalty of Rs 5,000-10,000 per day if the contravention continues makes the provision of availing of MSP in the APMC mandi redundant.

There are examples in contemporary history of the governments taking back laws they had passed. The Poll Tax decision taken by the Margaret Thatcher government in the UK in 1990 is well known. This was a tax on everyone on the voting list. It had led to riots and was eventually withdrawn.

The democratic mode of governance requires that the Central government should either issue an ordinance repealing these laws or convene a session of Parliament straight away for the purpose. The government has the option to introduce laws later after a due consultation process with all stakeholders.

Future agricultural reforms ought to deal with making small-scale farming sustainable economically and ecologically. The old development paradigm premised on the demise of agriculture is fundamentally flawed in the era of global climate change where sustainable agriculture is central to a new development paradigm.

How the hamam was brought home

CHANDNI S CHANDEL

IRECENTLY realised the joy of small things when I met an octogenarian on an unplanned visit to an acquaintance's house in a Shimla suburb. I saw the prowess of his frugal innovation in a big copper utensil transfixed around a tandoor pipe in the kitchen-cum-sitting area. The heat of the tandoor pipe as it makes its way up warms up water in the modified water container, which also heats the entire room. The story behind its innovation is all the more interesting.

The now 80-plus innovator had discovered a copper hamam in the bylanes of Pune he visited as part

of a farmers' delegation in 1985 when he was in his fifties. He had thought that the hamam could be modified and fitted on his tandoor to serve a useful purpose. Costing about Rs 500 then, he wished to buy it but to bring it home so far from there was a challenge. Locals told him that he could get it in a Mumbai market too, which was his next destination, and from there he could ferry it by train. As luck would have it, he couldn't find it in Mumbai. He returned empty-handed, his heart still stuck on the hamam.

He happened to visit Pune again after 17 years as part of a religious trip with some relatives. Still eyeing the hamam, when he started

from home, he surreptitiously and coyly carried Rs 5,000 in his 'chor pocket' in case he sets his gaze on the hamam again. Behold, he found it! The problem this time round was that he had a band of relatives along with him and they also wanted the hamam for their homes. They had only one vehicle, how would it carry three-four hamams! But he wanted it most desperately, and lovingly too. He bought it, got it packed nicely and shoved it between the baggage on the vehicle's carrier.

Mission accomplished, he thought. After 22 years, his stinging desire seemed to be finally on way to fruition, but when the luggage was unloaded everybody

wondered what was in that big jute bag. The relatives were infuriated: 'Why didn't you tell us? We also wanted it!' They didn't talk to him for the next few years as a mark of protest.

And now, 13 years down the line since it was bought and 35 years after the inception of the idea, the hamam with little modifications shines with grace and aplomb, piggybacking the tandoor as family members, young and old, huddle around the tandoor to get the warmth of the fire, and hot water too.

Once a visitor from Maharashtra visited their place and told them it's called a 'bum'. His grandson immediately responded and acknowledged, 'Bum mein hai dum!'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bandh not a good idea

Apropos of 'Ahead of Bharat bandh, PM says reforms must, outdated laws a burden', in the time of the Covid-induced lockdown, we faced a lot of difficulties when Bharat was not properly 'bandh'. We are now inviting trouble by taking the decision of a nationwide shutdown. Wearing a protest T-shirt is the easiest form of protest. The farmers' protest has taken a political shape. Farmers and all members of the Opposition stand against the decision on farm laws. John Thibault rightly said, 'Issues transcend boundaries, but voters do not.'

MOHIT MOR, JIND

In favour of growers

The farm laws promulgated by the Centre are benevolent in intent and intelligible in content. The objective of these laws is simple, to provide farmers with more freedom. The farmers have misunderstood the legislation as seeking to abolish the APMC system and the MSP regime. Both these positions are half-baked. The reality is that farmers still retain the right to sell within mandis established by the APMCs. The laws only provide them with the choice to sell their produce outside the precincts of those mandis to firms for higher prices.

Regarding MSP, the government has assured that the policy would not be scrapped. Despite this assurance, the deadlock does not seem to end. The only solution seems to be for the government to pursue communicating with the farmers to address their concerns.

NISSIM AGGARWAL, CHANDIGARH

Punjab rises again

The ongoing agitation against agrarian laws has shifted the focus in Punjab from a plethora of ills like drugs, suicides and exodus of youth to foreign shores. Once again, Punjab has played a pivotal role and inspired the whole country. Big or small in size, Punjab is a phenomenon almost like the Ganga, described by Nehru — 'A narrow, slow and graceful stream in winter, and a vast roaring thing during the monsoon, broad-bosomed almost as the sea, and with something of the sea's power to destroy, the Ganga has been to me a symbol and a memory of the past of India, running into the present, and flowing on to the great ocean of the future.'

BASANT SINGH BRAR, BATHINDA

Not fair to farmers

Refer to 'Thought for the Day'; the Dalai Lama is right that peace can last only where rights are respected.

Rights are being violated and the result is there for all to see. There is chaos, violence, agitation, allegations etc. India is among the most resourceful countries, with plenty of minerals, forests, natural gas, diamonds, solar energy etc. Every year, our farmers grow unlimited grains and cash crops. Tonnes of grains rot due to inadequate storage facilities. Sometimes, they are forced to dump their produce on roads because they don't get returns for their hard work. What a mockery! Farmers are not indulging in politics because no one can force them to face water cannons in biting cold, and lathis. Nobody shuns the warmth of their home just to pass time in the name of politics.

SAROJ BANYAL, HAMIRPUR

End stalemate

Apropos of 'Now, politicians make beeline', and the surrender of honours and awards, the ongoing farmers' struggle is unique in many ways. It reminds us of the chapters of freedom struggle when moderate and revolutionary leaders, the young and the old, women and children, fought a 'do or die' battle to get freedom by means of peaceful Satyagraha, surrender of honours and titles, boycott of foreign-made goods, and through revolutionary activities. The farmers' agitation is

also getting huge moral and financial support from individuals and organisations from all walks of life. Politicians have started rushing to Delhi to cash in on the movement. No party can afford to lag behind at this crucial juncture. A majority of the politicians have no sympathy with anyone. In the garb of their so-called concern for the annadata, they are indulging in vote-bank politics. So far, the farmers have kept them at bay, which indicates their lack of faith in parties. It will be in the interest of the ruling regime to end the stalemate as early as possible, not only in the interest of the annadata, but also in the interest of the nation as a whole.

VK SYAL, SANGRUR

Modifying weather

Refer to 'China weather modification'; the state council has announced its plan to expand the system which would enable it to control weather conditions. It would not just affect India, it would impact the ecology of the world. In India, we plant trees for our future to maintain rainfall. In China, they do cloud modification. Weather modification is a new threat and unacceptable. Experimenting with Mother Nature would be a disaster.

BHANAV SHARMA, CHANDIGARH

New challenges to Dravidian politics in TN



RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

SENIOR JOURNALIST

cy, but his older brother, MK Alagiri, is estranged from him. Alagiri cultivated a base in southern Tamil Nadu that cannot be scoffed at. Their half-sister and Thoothukkudi MP Kanimozi Karunanidhi nurses her own ambitions, although her remit lies in Delhi.

However, Stalin, who earned his spurs by sweeping the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, managed to keep intact the 'secular' alliance he stitched in the run-up. The DMK-spearheaded coalition includes the Congress, the Left parties, the Indian Union Muslim League and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), formerly known as the Dalit Panthers' Party. The VCK came into being to seek a niche for the under-empowered Dalits in a polity dominated by the 'muscular' backward castes.

Pitted against this rainbow formation is the AIADMK that floundered for direction and stability after Jayalalithaa passed away. Closer to the elections, there are signs that under Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam, the AIADMK might steady itself, but at a political cost. In November-end, after Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, visited Chennai ostensibly to survey the pre-poll scene, the AIADMK declared it will have an alliance with the BJP.

The BJP, that secured just 2.8 per cent votes in the 2016 elections and scored a duck, became visible and even sought after, following Shah's trip. The AIADMK blew hot towards the BJP earlier when the BJP announced its plan to launch *Vetriyal Yatra* in Tamil Nadu with religious overtones. Its quest for regional symbols and icons took the BJP towards



MK Stalin, who earned his spurs by sweeping the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, managed to keep intact the 'secular' alliance he stitched in the run-up. The coalition led by the DMK includes the Congress, the Left parties, the Indian Union Muslim League and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, formerly known as the Dalit Panthers' party.

THE CHALLENGER: Stalin, the anointed heir to Karunanidhi, manages a party that was once cadre-driven, but has now been reduced to a mere dynastic entity. PTI

the calendar image of Lord Murugan, a subaltern deity who is venerated as an antipodal to the religious icons worshipped in the north. The BJP proposed to raise the war cry 'Vetriyal Veeravel' (victorious *vel*, the spear Murugan carries) in the *yatra*. It was stopped by the AIADMK government for being potentially 'inflammatory'. What then compelled the AIADMK, which regarded the BJP as a communal and electoral baggage, to seek out its hand?

The Dravidian parties began as the forebears of federalism, using symbols such as the Hindi imposition

and Brahmin dominance to bolster their resistance to the Centre's sway over Tamil Nadu. Decades later, the AIADMK leaders believe that aligning with the BJP is the only way to keep their party from fragmenting. That's not the only reason. VK Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's confidante who is in jail, is expected to be released in January 2021. The AIADMK is afraid that if a party she could form with her nephew TTV Dinakaran becomes a reality, it could be in trouble because it would make a play for the same votes. Therefore, it believed it should lean on the BJP and use its political guile

to keep the Sasikala-Dinakaran duo at bay. The prospects of the BJP teaming with the yet non-aligned parties such as the DMDK, PMK and the Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) was something the AIADMK did not relish. If a partnership with the BJP meant extracting big-ticket projects from the Centre, nothing like it for the AIADMK that needs to buck anti-incumbency.

This pastiche of acronyms and players was enlivened by the entry of a phenomenon: actor Rajinikanth or 'Thalaivar' (supremo). Enigmatic at the best of times, Rajinikanth strung along his fans and cheerleaders for

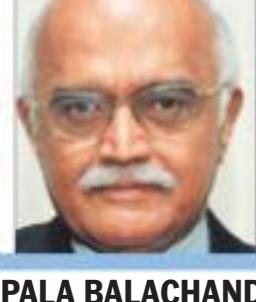
years over his political plans. He finally proclaimed he will launch a party whose name and symbol will be unveiled during the auspicious Pongal festival in January. Given Rajinikanth's mood swings, he might change his mind again, but the BJP will ensure he will not.

The BJP, adept as a talent scout, has not identified a leader of its own in Tamil Nadu. It had a scattering of MPs and MLAs in the past in alliance with the AIADMK but has little to show for itself independently. Rajinikanth seems to be the talisman the BJP waited for. S Gurumurthy, the Chennai-based chartered accountant who was an adviser to the RSS's Swadeshi Jagran Manch, worked from behind the scenes and quickly placed Arjuna Murthy, who helmed the Tamil Nadu BJP's intellectual cell, as the actor's 'chief coordinator'.

Rajinikanth spoke a language that the BJP thought could strike a chord with voters fed up with the 'corrupt' and 'family-centred' Dravidian parties. The phrases he chose were 'spiritual politics', 'honesty' and 'freedom from corruption'. Would a 'spiritual' stream click in a state that rejected theism in politics in the past and preferred to pursue religion in private and temple spaces, away from electioneering?

Doubtless, Tamil Nadu politics was anchored in filmdom as the epic successes of MG Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa proved. Lately, however, stars like Captain Vijayakanth, Vijay and Kamal Haasan scarcely made an impact. Perhaps cinema may no longer ensure a safe passage to politics. Rajinikanth could be the ultimate test.

Biden has his work cut out on intel front



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

EX-SPECIAL SECRETARY, CABINET SECRETARIAT

NOT much has appeared in our media on the great damage done by President Donald Trump on US intelligence services, which needs to be undone by president-elect Joe Biden. No US President in recent memory has so openly been at war with his own services, calling them the 'Deep State'.

Trump exhibited this during his first presidential debate on September 26, 2016, with Hillary Clinton when he rubbished the charge that Russia had broken into the Democratic National Committee (DNC) servers. This was surprising as he was getting classified intelligence briefing as the presidential candidate, a convention which he later denied to Biden even after he was elected.

The second occasion was after his election, but two weeks before the inauguration in January 2017, when he was given a top secret briefing by the then Director of National Intelligence (DNI) James Clapper and his team at Trump Tower, New York. The CIA was about to officially issue their finding regarding Russian interference when Trump made attempts to persuade them to modify their assessment to say that the 'Russian interference had no impact on the outcome of the election, which we could not, did not say,' as Clapper later revealed.

In retort, Trump tweeted on January 11, 2017: "Intelligence agencies should never have allowed this fake news to 'leak' into the public. One last shot at me. Are we living in Nazi Germany?" He openly let them down again in July 2018 during his Helsinki summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin by denying Russian interference.



TOUGH TASK: The Director of Intelligence manages the output of 16 agencies. AFP

The next occasion was on January 29, 2019, when CIA director Gina Haspel told the Senate Intelligence Committee that "at that point, Iran was in compliance with the nuclear deal", inviting Trump's ire. He tweeted the next day that the intelligence people were "extremely passive and naive when it comes to the dangers of Iran."

It is not that presidents before him had always accepted CIA findings. However, no president had ever embarrassed them openly as Trump. As a matter of fact, the CIA, unlike many other intelligence agencies, have a tradition of being apolitical in their analysis and not favouring any particular viewpoint of policy makers.

Their tradition was set by Prof Sherman Kent, Yale professor, who was recruited from among the top Ivy

League academics into the Research & Analysis Branch (R&A) of the Office of the Special Services (OSS) in 1942 after the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. OSS became the CIA in 1947.

Kent had set very high standards in analysis and conclusions. He said that "intelligence must be close enough to policy, plans and operations to have the greatest amount of guidance, and must not be so close that it loses its objectivity and integrity of judgement."

Robert Gates, the youngest CIA Director in history, records how William Casey, President Ronald Reagan's confidant, tried to dilute this principle as Director which met with resistance. Under Reagan's instructions, Secretary of State Alexander Haig declared eight days after Reagan's inauguration that the Soviet Union was behind all

international terrorism. Only then he asked Casey for a CIA estimate.

The first CIA draft shocked Casey. It stated that the Soviets made distinction between national liberation groups supported by them and terrorist organisations, disapproved using terrorism and did not support the Red Army or Abu Nidal. Casey was so upset that he asked for a draft from the Defence Intelligence Agency. A struggle ensued and what finally emerged as an estimate titled "The Soviet role in revolutionary violence" was a mélange of ideas including CIA's original views. *The New York Times* reported this 'struggle' in detail on May 3, 1981.

Having said all this, Biden also needs to address why young and bright CIA officers are hesitating to continue in the organisation as recently reported by the reputed online journal *Just Security*. It says that bureaucratic reasons have resulted in demoralisation among those who were happy with the action-oriented 'modernisation' initiated in 2015 by opening 10 'Mission Centres' under a new Directorate of Digital Innovation (DDI). This new directorate was meant to infuse "advanced digital and cyber capabilities in 10 distinct areas by harnessing operational, analytic, technical and digital capabilities."

It claims that this "cross-functional model" in support of operations had resulted in great successes, ranging "from hunting down Osama bin Laden to countering Iran's nuclear ambitions." However, this new directorate has come in clash with CIA's four traditional directorates, which are Directorates of Analysis, Operations, Science & Technology and Support, as the personnel

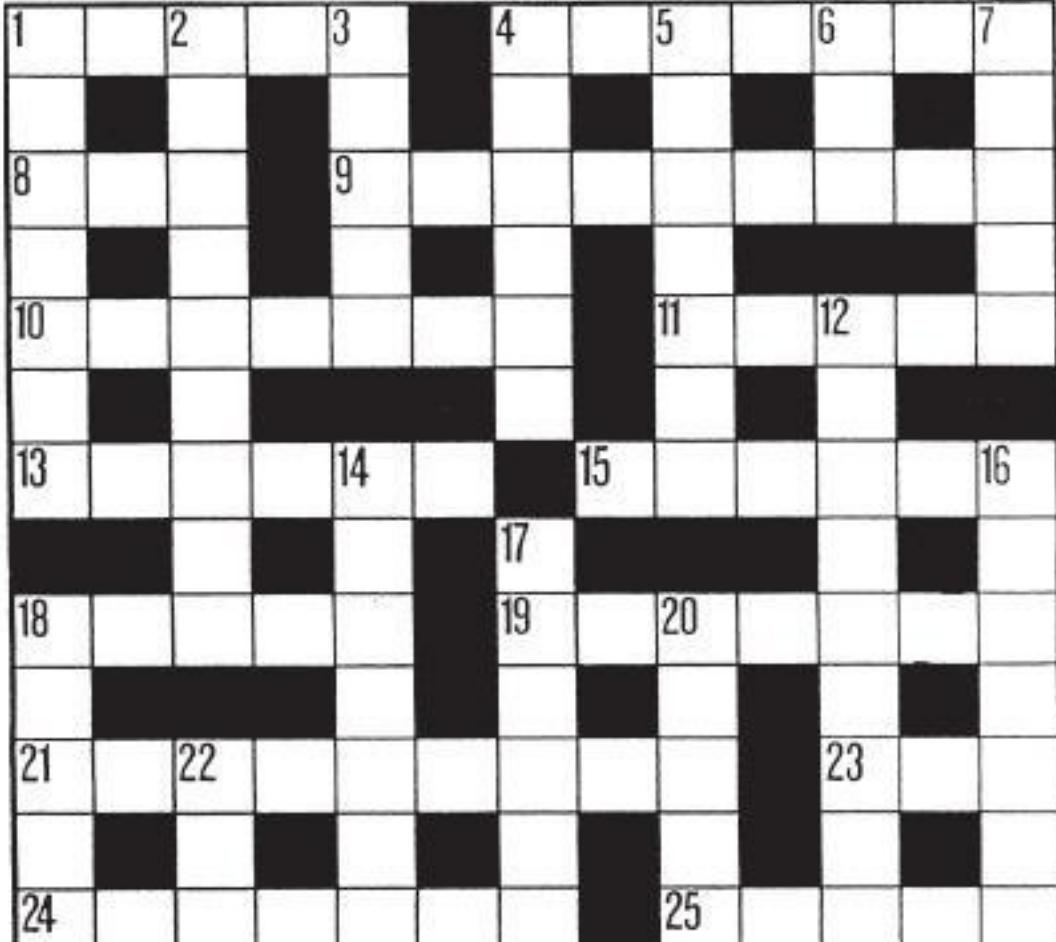
working in DDI have to depend upon the traditional directorates for promotion and career advancement.

As one who has been studying global intelligence organisations for decades, this complaint seems to be strangely similar to the ones made earlier. In February 1998, *The Atlantic Monthly* published a piece by former CIA officer Reuel Marc Gerecht who wrote under a pseudonym as 'Edward G Shirley' that he resigned from the agency due to its "corrosive culture in which promotion hungry operatives collect pointless intelligence from worthless foreign agents." Like in the *Just Security* article, he directed his ire on the Directorate of Operations (DO) which was responsible for blocking progressive reforms and promotions to case officers. My only conclusion is that the clash between the different wings continue despite changes at the political level.

Biden's announcement of Avril Haines as the new DNI has been greeted with widespread approval by intelligence professionals so far. She was formerly Deputy Director of CIA and had also worked as Deputy National Security Adviser in the Obama administration. She was also with Brookings.

There is a common impression that CIA is the only major agency under DNI. It is not. DNI has the challenging responsibility of being responsible for the output of 16 intelligence agencies, many of them under the defence department. Under President Trump, this job was held by six individuals in four years, including an ambassador to Germany who held the charge part-time. That spoke volumes about the importance he gave to intelligence during his term.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

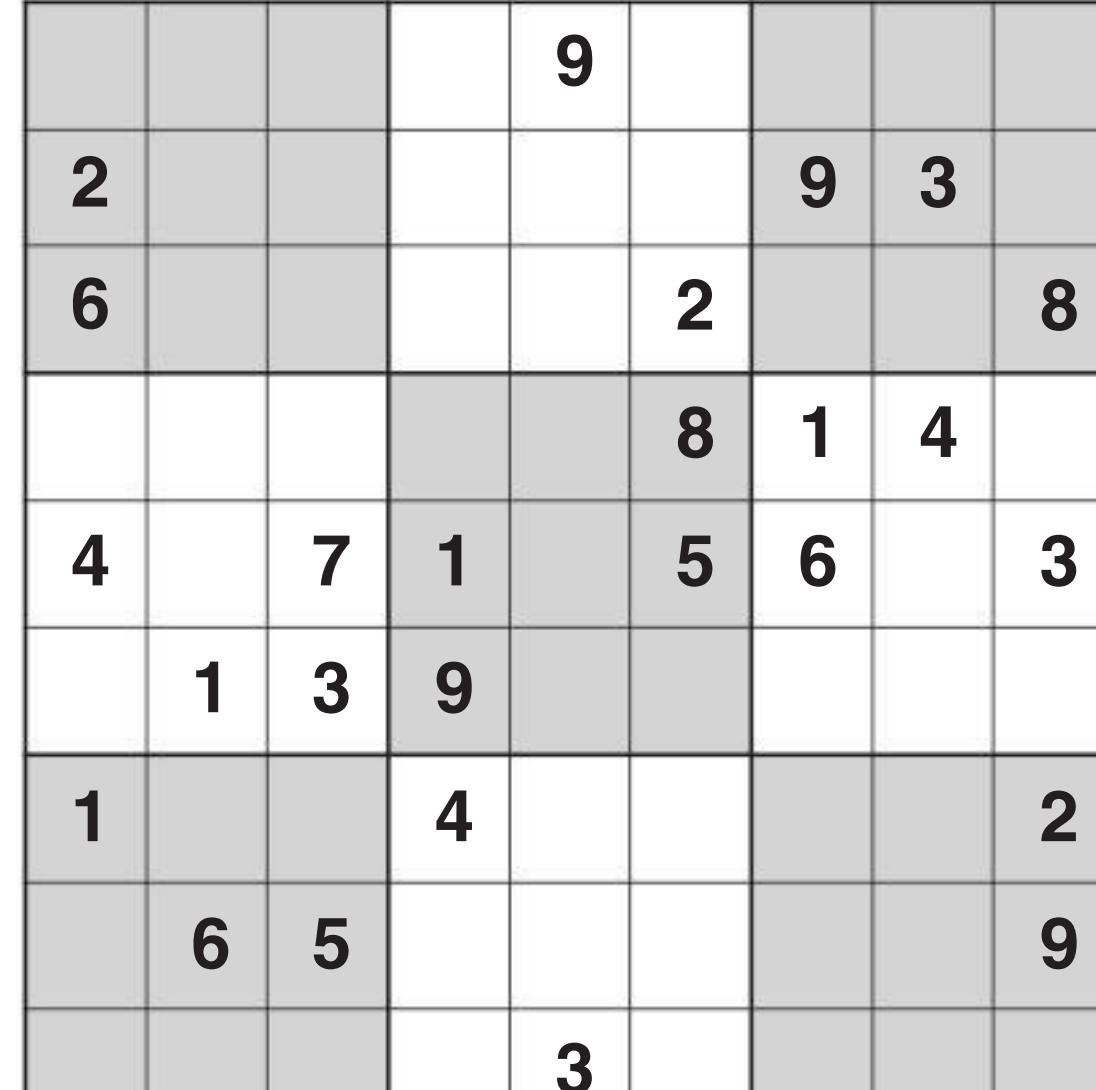
Across: 1 First light, 8 Caste, 9 Mastiff, 10 Traipse, 11 Unfit, 12 Hotbed, 14 Weepie, 17 Ember, 19 Embargo, 21 Nonstop, 22 Wreak, 23 Second-rate.

Down: 2 Instant, 3 Sweep, 4 Limpet, 5 Gesture, 6 Thief, 7 Off the hook, 8 Catchpenny, 13 Erratic, 15 Pervert, 16 Deepen, 18 Bonus, 20 Bower.

ACROSS

- 1 Be sold for (5)
- 4 Malignant (7)
- 8 Cereal used in some bread (3)
- 9 The other way round (4,5)
- 10 Exculpate (7)
- 11 To shift (5)
- 13 Give formal order to (6)
- 15 Scattered wreckage (6)
- 18 Brushwood (5)
- 19 Representative (7)
- 21 Respond unduly forcibly (9)
- 23 Purpose (3)
- 24 Scanty (7)
- 25 Fortunate (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Precocious (7)
- 2 Keeper of society's funds (9)
- 3 Small wretched house (5)
- 4 Quarrel pettily (6)
- 5 Inspiring affection (7)
- 6 In favour of (3)
- 7 Bequeath (5)
- 12 At very little cost (4,5)
- 14 Floor show (7)
- 16 Unanimously (7)
- 17 Close by (2,4)
- 18 Bad-tempered look (5)
- 20 Sales presentation (5)
- 22 Large deciduous tree (3)

SU DO KU



CALENDAR

DECEMBER 9, 2020, WEDNESDAY

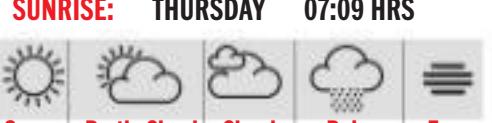
■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Margshirsh Shaka	18
■ Margshirsh Parvishte	25
■ Hijari	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 9, up to 3.18 pm	
Aayushman Yoga up to 10.43 pm	
Uttraphalguli Nakshatra up to 12.33 pm	
Moon in Virgo sign	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 17:21 HRS
SUNRISE: THURSDAY 07:09 HRS



CITY MAX MIN

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	26	13
New Delhi	26	10
Amritsar	24	13
Bathinda	26	10
Jalandhar	23	12
Ludhiana	25	12
Bhiwani	26	9
Hisar	25	8
Sirsia	25	10
Dharamsala	18	11
Manali	13	03
Shimla	17	08
Srinagar	06	01
Jammu	20	12
Kargil	01	-04
Leh	02	-04
Dehradun	25	11
Mussoorie	17	09

TEMPERATURE IN °C

The Gazette of India

CG-DL-E-201020-222564

EXTRAORDINARY

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 3249]	NEW DELHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020/ASVINA 27, 1942					
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MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(RAILWAY BOARD)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 14th October, 2020

S.O. 3664(E)- Whereas, by the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), number, S.O. 2037(E), dated the 24th June 2020, published in Gazette of India, on 25th June, 2020, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), (hereinafter referred to as the said notification) under sub-section (1) of section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the schedule annexed to the said notification for the purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of Special Railway Project namely, Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor in the district of Ambala in the State of Haryana;

And whereas, the substance of the said notification was published in daily newspaper The Tribune (English), dated the 07th July, 2020 (Chandigarh Edition) and Amar Ujala (Hindi), dated the 07th July, 2020 (Chandigarh Edition) under sub-section (4) of Section 20A of the said Act;

And whereas, no objection was received accordingly orders have been passed by competent authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 20E of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

"Now therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 20E of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the lands specified in the schedule annexed hereto shall be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 20E of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the official Gazette, the land specified in the schedule annexed hereto shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structure falling within the proposed Special Railway Project namely, Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor in the district of Ambala in the State of Haryana.

Name of the District: Ambala*

S. No.	Name of the Taluka	Name of the Village	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Mustee Number	Survey Number	Area to be Acquired in Hectare	Name of Land Owners/ Interested Persons
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1.	Ambala Cantt	Dukheri	Private	Road	17	9/2/1	0.0228	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o late sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder singh each two have equal share 9/40. Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.
		Private	Agriculture	17	9/2/2	0.0228	Kulwant singh s/o Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh 200/399 share, Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 17/57 share, Smt Harwinder Kaur w/o Kulwant singh s/o Jagjeet Singh 80/399 share.	
		Private	Agriculture	17	12/2/2	0.0126	Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share.	
		Private	Road	17	12/2/3	0.0051	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o late sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder singh each two have equal share 9/40. Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.	
		Private	Agriculture	17	13/2/1	0.0506	Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share	
		Private	Road	17	13/2/2	0.0228	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o late sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder singh each two have equal share 9/40. Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.	
		Private	Road	17	16/2/2/1	0.0126	as above	
		Private	Agriculture	17	16/2/2/2	0.0202	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 83/279 share, Kulwant Singh s/o Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh 140/279 share, Smt Harwinder Kaur w/o Kulwant singh s/o Jagjeet Singh 56/279 share.	
		Private	Road	17	17/2/1	0.0177	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o late sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Baldev Singh S/o Narinder Singh, 3/40 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder singh each two have equal share 3/20. Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.	
		Private	Agriculture	17	17/2/2	0.0658	Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share	
		Private	Agriculture	17	18	0.000	Karam Singh, Balbeer Singh, Sahilinder Singh Son's sh. Mehar Singh s/o sh. Chadata each three have equal share.	
		Private	Road	17	25/2/1	0.0126	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh, 3/40 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder singh each two have equal share 3/20. Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.	
		Private	Agriculture	17	25/2/2	0.0228	Kulwant singh s/o Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh 200/399 share, Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 17/57 share, Smt Harwinder Kaur w/o Kulwant singh s/o Jagjeet Singh 80/399 share.	
		Private	Road	18	21/2/1	0.0202	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o late sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder singh each two have equal share 9/40. Sravjinder singh, Sahib singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.	
		Private	Agriculture	18	21/2/2	0.0354	Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev singh s/o Narinder singh 6/25 share, Gurpreet singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 19/25 share.	
		Private	Agriculture	19	20/1/2	0.0152	Ram Karan, Ram singh Son's of Sh. Pritam singh s/o bishnoi each two have equal share 2/3 share Satish Kumar, Gurmail Singh Son's of Hakam Singh S/o Pritam Singh each two have equal share 1/3.	
		Private	Agriculture	19	20/2	0.0076	Tejal Singh, Rajkaran Singh son's patambar Singh S/o Babu Ram each to have equal share 1/3. Inder Raj Singh, Dharam Singh son's Babu Ram S/o Dulaiya each two have equal share 2/3.	
		Private	Agriculture	19	21/1	0.0303	Nirmal, Balwan, Surjan Singh son's Sant Ram S/o Inder Singh S/o Chajju each two have equal share 1/4. Jaswinder kaur w/o d/o Amanpreet, Himanshu s/o Ram Karan s/o Bakshi each three have equal 1/16 share Amrik Singh, Arjun Singh, Sandeep Singh Son's Bakshi ram s/o inder singh each three have equal share 3/16. Ranbeer Singh, kapton Singh son's Ram Karan s/o chajju each two have equal share 1/4.	

								Manish s/o Ram Gopal s/o Inder 1/4 share.
Private	Agriculture	19	21/2	0.0303	Tejpal Singh, Rajkaran Singh son's patambar Singh S/o Babu Ram each to have equal share 1/3. Inder Raj Singh, Dharam Singh son's Babu Ram S/o Dulaiya each two have equal share 2/3.			
Private	Agriculture	23	1/1	0.0051	Prem Singh s/o teg Singh s/o Jeet Ram 1/2 share, Hari Singh s/o Lal Singh s/o Jeet ram 1/2 share.			
Private	Agriculture	23	1/2	0.0152	Tejpal Singh, Rajkaran Singh son's patambar Singh S/o Babu Ram each to have equal share 1/3. Inder Raj Singh, Dharam Singh son's Babu Ram S/o Dulaiya each two have equal share 2/3.			
Private	Agriculture	24	1/2/1	0.0152	Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 6/25 share, Gurpreet Singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 19/25 share.			
Private	Road	24	1/2/2	0.0051	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet Singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder Singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder Singh each two have equal share 9/40. Sravjinder Singh, Sahib Singh, Manjeet Singh Son's Kuldeep Singh s/o Narinder Singh each three have equal share 9/40.			
Private	Agriculture	24	2/2/1	0.0556	Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 6/25 share, Gurpreet Singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 19/25 share.			
Private	Road	24	2/2/2	0.0202	Jagjeet Singh S/o Narinder Singh s/o Shamsher Singh 13/40 share, Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 27/500 share, Gurpreet Singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 171/1000 share, Smt Gurminder Kaur w/o late sh Bhupinder Singh, Harpreet Kaur d/o Bhupinder Singh s/o Narinder Singh each two have equal share 9/40.			
Private	Agriculture	24	3/1/2	0.0051	Daya Ram s/o Mukhtyar Singh s/o daku 1/3 share Tarsem Singh s/o kreshan Lal s/o Mukhtyar 1/4 share Sandeep Singh, Vijay son's raj Singh s/o kreshan each two have equal share 1/4. Ashok Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Sushil Kumar son's Daya Ram s/o Mukhtyar each three have equal share 1/6.			
Private	Agriculture	24	5/1	0.0253	Nirmal, Balwan, Surjan Singh son's Sant Ram S/o Inder Singh S/o Chajju each three have equal share 1/4. Jaswinder Kaur w/o, Amanpreet d/o, Himanshu s/o Ram Kisan s/o Bakshi each three have equal 1/16 share. Amrik Singh, Arjun Singh, Sandeep Singh Son's Bakshi ram s/o inder singh each three have equal share 3/16. Ranbeer Singh, kapton Singh s/o Ram Kisan s/o Chajju each two have equal share 1/4. Manish s/o Ram Gopal s/o Inder share 1/4.			
Private	Agriculture	24	5/2	0.0101	Tejal Singh, Rajkaran Singh son's patambar Singh S/o Babu Ram each to have equal share 1/3. Inder Raj Singh, Dharam Singh son's Babu Ram S/o Dulaiya each two have equal share 2/3.			
Private	Agriculture	24	6/1	0.0177	Sandeep Singh s/o Brijbhushan s/o Bharat Singh.			
Private	Agriculture	24	6/3	0.0126	Nirmal, Balwan, Surjan Singh son's Sant Ram S/o Inder Singh S/o Chajju each three have equal share 1/4. Jaswinder Kaur w/o, Amanpreet d/o, Himanshu s/o Ram Kisan s/o Bakshi each three have equal 1/16 share. Amrik Singh, Arjun Singh, Sandeep Singh Son's Bakshi ram s/o inder singh each three have equal share 3/16. Ranbeer Singh, kapton Singh s/o Ram Kisan s/o Chajju each two have equal share 1/6.			
Private	Agriculture	24	7/2/2	0.0228	Daya Ram s/o Mukhtyar Singh s/o daku 1/3 share Tarsem Singh s/o kreshan Lal s/o Mukhtyar 1/4 share Sandeep Singh, Vijay son's raj Singh s/o kreshan each two have equal share 1/4. Ashok Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Sushil Kumar son's Daya Ram s/o Mukhtyar each three have equal share 1/6.			
Private	Agriculture	24	8/2	0.0607	as above			
Private	Agriculture	24	9	0.000	Smt Sukhchain Kaur w/o sh Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 6/25 share, Gurpreet Singh s/o Baldev Singh s/o Narinder Singh 19/25 share.			
Private	Agriculture	24	14/1/2	0.0759	Daya Ram s/o Mukhtyar Singh s/o daku 1/3 share Tarsem Singh s/o kreshan Lal s/o Mukhtyar 1/4 share Sandeep Singh, Vijay son's raj Singh s/o kreshan each two have equal share 1/4. Ashok Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Sushil Kumar son's Daya Ram s/o Mukhtyar each three have equal share 1/6.			
Private	Agriculture	24	14/2	0.0506	Ravi Pal Singh S/o Hansraj Singh 11/64 share and Sudesh, Reena, Sushma Devi D/o Hansraj 14/64 share, Robin S/o Ravi Pal Singh S/o Hansraj 7/64 share, Vijay Singh, Virendra Singh S/o's Jaswant Singh S/o Bhandha each of two equal share 1/8 share, Vikas Singh S/o Vijay Singh 3/16 share, Amit Kumar, Sumit Kumar S/o's Vijay Singh S/o Bhandha each of two equal share 1/8 share.			
Private	Agriculture	24	17/1	0.0303	as above			
Private	Agriculture	24	17/2	0.0455	Sandeep Singh s/o Brijbhushan s/o Bharat Singh.			
Private	Agriculture	24	18	0.0076	as above			
Private	Agriculture	24	23/1	0.0506	as above			
Private	Agriculture	24	23/2	0.0202	Ravi Pal Singh Son Hansraj and Sudesh, Reena, Sushma Daughters of Hansraj S/o Bhandha each of four equal share 7/16 share, Robin S/o Ravi Pal Singh S/o Hansraj 1/16 share, Vijay Singh, Virendra Singh Son's of Jaswant Singh S/o Bhandha each of two equal share 12/24 share.			
Private	Agriculture	24	24/2	0.0126	as above			
2.	Barara	Maujgarh (H.B. No. 212)	Private	Agriculture	21	10/2/2	0	Jaswinder Singh s/o Ishar Singh s/o Hari Singh 1/3 Share, Parwinder Singh s/o Amrik Singh s/o Hari Singh 1/3 Share, Gurpreet Singh s/o Hari Singh 1/3 Share, Baljeet Singh, Paramjit Singh, Davinder Singh Son's of Darshan Singh s/o Hari Singh each four have equal of 1/3 share. Res. Barara
			Private	Agriculture	21	11/1/2	0.0278	as above
			Private	Agriculture	22			

Buses off road, shops partially shut amid pro-farmer protest

Transporters, social organisations support demand for repeal of farm laws

JAMMU, DECEMBER 8

Several social organisations, including transporters, held a peaceful protest here on Tuesday to express solidarity with farmers who gave a call for Bharat bandh against the new farm laws. It evoked a mixed response in Jammu region with most of public transport staying off road, troubling commuters. Shops and business establishments remained partially open.

The main protest rally was taken out by the J&K Transport Welfare Association (JKTWA) from Bikram Chowk to Digyan, blocking the Jammu-Patankot highway. The JKTWA and over a dozen other social, religious and political organizations have extended support to the bandh call. The protest remained peaceful.

Leading the protest march, JKTWA chairman TS Wazir said they were on the roads in support of the agitating farmers who were demanding



Members of the All J&K Transport Welfare Association participate in a rally in Jammu on Tuesday. PTI

immediate revocation of the three farm laws introduced by the Central Government.

"If there is a need, we are ready to join the farmers in Delhi," Wazir said. Various other social, religious and political organisations, including National Panthers

Party (NPP), Kisan Vikas Front and United Sikh Organisation also staged peaceful protests at different places in the city in support of the bandh call.

The Joint Action Committee of civil society groups and social organisations also held

protests at various places in different districts including Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Reasi.

The officials said police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength to maintain law and order across Jammu region. — PTI

Justice Bindal made Acting CJ

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Wants introduction of tech in judicial system

- Justice Rajesh Bindal was elevated as Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in March 2006
- He advocates optimal use of technology, including that of artificial intelligence, in the judicial system

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 8 Justice Rajesh Bindal has been appointed by the President as the Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.

The appointment follows retirement of Chief Justice Gita Mittal. Justice Bindal is known for his proficiency in bringing justice closer to the people through computerisation. As chairman of a panel constituted by the National Legal Services Authority, he has already submitted a report on optimal use of technology, including artificial intelligence.

Justice Bindal was elevated as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on March 22, 2006, and remained chairman of a committee for framing draft rules for electronic

evidence. The report was submitted to the Supreme Court in November 2018. As chairman of a multi-member committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to study civil aspects of International Child Abduction Bill-2016, Justice Bindal submitted report accompanied by the recommendations and draft of the Protection of Children (Inter-Country Removal and Retention) Bill-2018 to the Ministry in April 2018.

Before his transfer to High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in November 2018, he dis-

posed of around 80,000 cases. Presently, he is chairman of the finance committee, building and infrastructure committee, information technology committee, state court management systems committee and also chairman of J&K State Legal Service Authority. He is also member of a committee constituted to go into the existing framework of Lok Adalats and Mediation and has already suggested ways for enhancing operational efficiency and plugging gaps for better application of ADR mechanisms for weaker sections of the society.

6 deaths, 470 fresh cases

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 8

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 470 new Covid cases and six deaths due to the disease, taking the infection tally to 1,14,038 and the death toll to 1,761, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 277 are from Jammu division. The officials said Jammu district recorded the highest number of 161 cases, followed by 74 in Srinagar district. The number of active cases dropped to 4,995 as 524 patients recovered from the infection. As many as 1,07,282 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. — PTI

Snowfall in higher reaches of Valley



People walk on a snow-covered road in Gulmarg on Tuesday. PTI

Licence for vaccines...

FROM PAGE 1
needs a vaccine will get one, but three categories will be inoculated first."

The expert group has recommended inclusion of one crore health workers, two crore frontline workers (personnel of police, armed forces, home guard, disaster management volunteers and municipal workers) and 27 crore people who are above 50 years of age or those with

comorbid conditions even if they are below 50 years of age.

The government will take a final call on priority groups for inoculation.

BJP social media handles launched

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 8

BJP general secretary and Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Tarun Chugh on Tuesday launched official social media handles of the party's unit in the union territory.

The officials said most places in the plains of the valley received heavy rains which continued this morning. The fresh snowfall and rains have led to the closure of the Srinagar-Leh road. — PTI

Launching the Twitter handle and Instagram and Facebook pages of the J&K wing, Chugh said, "The party can change the way the young generations are learning about our country. The BJP wants to engage the young people." — PTI

HP orchardists too seek MSP

FROM PAGE 1

procure the fruit below the MSP. Maintaining that they were not against reforms, Chauhan said changes should not come at the cost of orchardists and their interests must be protected.

The fruit is sold both in Agricultural Produce Market Committee and private mandis and a few corporates procure it directly from growers through their stores in the state.

"The multiple sale options are ensuring good remuneration to the orchardists. Our concern is if APMCs go out of business within a few years, measures must be in place to ensure corporate houses don't monopolise the trade and exploit us," said Bisht.

Chauhan said the growers were benefitting from the present system, but feared they may suffer losses in the future. "The minimum support price provision will allay such worries to a large extent," he added.

FROM PAGE 1

Support for our cause is growing. We will not flinch." Officials, however, claimed to have achieved some success, saying the Centre was trying to thrash out matters with those willing to walk the middle path.

Earlier, some leaders

objected to the Home Minister's residence as the venue for the talks though officials blamed it on a "communication gap". Sources said Shah tried to explain the benefits of the laws at the meeting which was also attended by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. A Cabinet meeting is planned tomorrow, sources said. However, while the Centre may be ready for some amendments, the farmers say "there can be no midway". The fact is that while the BJP-led NDA is under pressure to resolve the issue, farm leaders are under pressure not to give in.

E-Mail: eonpnayaon@ymail.com

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, NAYA GAON (S.A.S. NAGAR)

ਦਰਤਰ ਸਿੰਘਪਾਲ ਕੌਸਲ, ਨਵਾਂ ਗਾਂਡੀ (ਸੈਸ਼ਨ ਏਸੈਸ. ਨਗਰ)

ਨੰ. 1435 ਮਿਤੀ: 08.12.2020

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, NAYA GAON

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tender No. 1435 MC Nayagaon/2020 Dated: 08.12.2020

Department Inviting Work:- Municipal Council, Naya Gaon.

Name of Work:- Development of work Amounting Rs. 43.73 Lacs.

Cost of Work/Earnest Money:- Separate for each work.

Date of opening of bid:- 24.12.2020

For detailed terms and condition of the notice inviting tender please see <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and helpline No. 0172-2791226, 2791326.

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

Sd/- Executive Officer,

Municipal Council, Naya Gaon.

DPR/Pb/114559

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

e-Procurement Notice

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nagrota Bagwan invites online tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through online e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(Rs) (In lacs)	EMD (Rs) (In lacs)	Cost of form(Rs) (In lacs)	Time Limit
1	Providing Separate Lift-Water Supply Scheme Matiya Bhera and adjoining village in Tehsil Baroh and District Kangra (H.P.). (Sub Head:- Supply and Erection of Pumping machinery with allied accessories for Stage-1st & 2nd and Laying, Jointing and testing of Rising Main 65 mm dia).	13,75,125/-	29005/-	400/-	6 Months

Last date of filing/uploaded the tender through e-tendering : 16.12.2020 upto 11:00 AM and opened on same day at 11:30 AM

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be seen from the website <https://hpptender.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti Division, Nagrota Bagwan (H.P.).

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

(A State Govt. Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER "DATE EXTENSION"

(E-Tendering Now Offline Mode Only)

The date for sale, submission and opening of following tender is hereby extended as below. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. The tender documents can be had on any working day from the office of Chief Engineer (MM) against payment of **Rs.1000+GST** (non-refundable for tender cost) in the shape of account payee Demand Draft in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer (Banking), HPSEB Limited, Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-4.

Sr. No.	Description of Items	Estd. Cost (In lacs)	EMD Fixed (In lacs)	Tender document fee (Non-refundable GST inclusive) (In lacs)	Last date & Time of tender offline sale of tender	Last date & Time of Submission of tender offline	Due date & Time of opening of bids
1	CE (MM)-10/2020 Tender Enquiry for the hiring of Service provider for e-procurement portal services providing various e-bidding services including e-Reverse Auctions at HPSEBL.	20.80	45,000/-	1000 + GST	18.12.2020 (upto 4:00 p.m.)	21.12.2020 (upto 4:00 p.m.)	22.12.2020 (at 11:30 a.m.)

Chief Engineer (MM),

HPSEB Ltd., Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004,

Telefax : 0177-2801265,

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation Email: cemm.hpselb@gmail.com

TENDER/RFP FOR SERVICES LIKE AMC, HOUSEKEEPING ETC.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

TENDER REFERENCE NO. 15 OF 2020

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Work
1	Survey, Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant of 3.00 MLD capacity based on any suitable sustainable and proven technology including O&M for 60 months after complete stabilization period of 3 months or more and all other works contingent thereto at Adampur Town Distt. Jalandhar (under BUCIP).
2	Survey, Soil testing design supply and construction-installation commissioning of 4 MLD STP at Kartarpur based on any suitable sustainable and proven technology including other appurtenant works on turnkey basis as per DNIT including O&M for a period of 60 months after stabilization period of 3 months or more.

Important dates are as under:-

i) Last date and time for online submission of bid for tenders 21.12.2020 upto 16:30 hrs.

ii) Date and time of opening of Technical Bid for tenders: 22.12.2020 at 14:00 hrs.

Note:- Other terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Pb. W/S & Sew. Div. No.1, Jalandhar.

DPR/Pb/114555

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids on item rates basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpur, Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the undermentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag through e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Cost of form (in Rs.)
1	Providing Functional house hold tap (FHTC) connections in village Tatwali,			

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
SPOT COUNSELLING & ADMISSION
2nd Spot counseling for admission to the following courses (July/ September -2020 session) will be held offline at Bhargava Auditorium, PGIMER, Chandigarh as per schedule given below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Courses	Date & time
1.	B.Sc. Nursing (4 years)	14.12.2020 at 11:00 AM
2.	Master of Public Health (MPH)	15.12.2020 at 11:00 AM
3.	B.Sc. Paramedical & Bachelor of Public Health	15.12.2020 at 11:00 AM

All eligible and interested candidates are requested to visit PGIMER website for further details of seats etc.

PROFESSOR-IN-CHARGE (ACADEMIC)
DI-15630

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

E TENDER NOTICE NO: PWSSD/MOGA/2020/15 Dated 07.12.2020

www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division Moga invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work
1.	Name of work:- Providing Laying/jointing cutting and testing of SW pipe, RCC NP-3 With HDPE lining DI-K7 pipe sewer and construction of brick masonry/RCC-cum-Brick Masonry Manhole Chamber, Vent Shaft, Sewerage House Connections and dismantling and construction of road and all other works contingent thereto in various palaces at Faridkot Distt. Faridkot (Part C).
2.	Name of work:- Providing, Laying, Cutting, jointing & testing of water supply DI K7 pipe & House Connections complete in all respects and all other works contingent thereto in Ward No.15, Zero Number Street & Ward No. 17, Three Number Street at Jaitu Distt. Faridkot.

Last date & time for online submission of bids shall be: 22.12.2020 up to 5:00 p.m.

For detailed terms & conditions refer to website

http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note:- Corrigendum will be published on department's website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Pb., W/S & Sew Divn, Moga.

DPR/Pb/114457

Name of Work

1. Name of work:- Providing Laying/jointing cutting and testing of SW pipe, RCC NP-3 With HDPE lining DI-K7 pipe sewer and construction of brick masonry/RCC-cum-Brick Masonry Manhole Chamber, Vent Shaft, Sewerage House Connections and dismantling and construction of road and all other works contingent thereto in various palaces at Faridkot Distt. Faridkot (Part C).

2. Name of work:- Providing, Laying, Cutting, jointing & testing of water supply DI K7 pipe & House Connections complete in all respects and all other works contingent thereto in Ward No.15, Zero Number Street & Ward No. 17, Three Number Street at Jaitu Distt. Faridkot.

Last date & time for online submission of bids shall be: 22.12.2020 up to 5:00 p.m.

For detailed terms & conditions refer to website

http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note:- Corrigendum will be published on department's website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Pb., W/S & Sew Divn, Moga.

DPR/Pb/114457

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Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Pb., W/S & Sew Divn, Moga.

DPR/Pb/114457

Oli seeks fresh impetus to stalled regional bloc

KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 8

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Tuesday urged the SAARC member states to give fresh impetus to the stalled regional body, saying time has come to move forward with "concrete action" on the ground with needed political will and commitment.

In his message on the occasion of the 36th Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Oli said the special day will "inspire all of us to foster mutual trust, understanding and cooperation as well as to deepen regional integration for peace and prosperity".

"Time has come to move forward with concrete action in the ground with needed political will and commitment," said Oli, whose country has been holding the chairmanship of the SAARC grouping since 2014.

"Giving fresh impetus to the stalled SAARC process can rekindle hope among our people and provide ground to move forward," he added.

SAARC has not been very

36TH CHARTER DAY OF SAARC

- On the 36th Charter Day of SAARC, KP Oli said the special day will "inspire all of us to foster mutual trust, understanding and cooperation as well as to deepen regional integration for peace".
- "Time has come to move forward with concrete action in the ground with needed political will. Giving fresh impetus to the stalled SAARC process can rekindle hope among our people," Nepal PM said.

'DEFEAT FORCES THAT NURTURE TERRORISM'

Full potential of SAARC can only be realised in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. Let us re-commit ourselves to defeating the forces that support and nurture terrorism. Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

effective since 2016 as its biennial summits have not taken place since the last one in Kathmandu in 2014.

The 2016 SAARC summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances". The summit was called off



after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet.

Oli said that the SAARC Charter characterises South Asia's shared vision, collective resolve and mutual pursuit to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region through eradication of poverty, accelerated economic growth and advancement in socio-cultural development. — PTI

Biden picks retired Army General to run Pentagon

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8

US President-elect Joe Biden has selected retired Army General Lloyd Austin to run the Pentagon as Secretary of Defence, according to media reports. If confirmed by the Senate, the 67-year-old career military officer would be the first African-American to lead the Department of Defence.

The office of the President-elect did not confirm the news, but said Biden will announce additional members of his Cabinet before Christmas, including his nominee for Secretary of Defence and members of his economic and domestic cabinet before the end of this week.

"Retired Gen Lloyd Austin, once viewed as a long-shot candidate to be President-elect Joe Biden's defence secretary, has been chosen to lead the Pentagon," Politico reported on Monday.

Biden has selected retired Austin, the former commander of US Central Command, to be his secretary of defence, the CNN also



2ND HIGHEST POSITION

- Lloyd Austin was the Commander of the US Central Command from 2013 to 2016. He closely interacted with the Pakistani military leadership.
- He would be the second Defence Secretary after James Mattis in four years to require Congressional waiver to head the position.

reported, quoting a source familiar with the decision. Biden's decision to pick Austin comes amid increasing pressure from the African Americans to name one of them to the top four positions -- Secretary of State, Treasury Secretary, Defence Secretary and Attorney General, according to political observers. — PTI

Pak, China nations of concern on religious rights: US

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8
The US has designated Pakistan and China among eight other countries that are of particular concern for violation of religious freedom, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said.

Pakistan and China along with Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were placed in the list for engaging in or tolerating "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom", Pompeo said in a statement on Monday.

The State Department placed the Comoros, Cuba, Nicaragua and Russia on a Special Watch List (SWL) for governments that have engaged in or tolerated "severe violations of religious freedom". "The US once again took action to defend those who simply want to exercise freedom," Pompeo said. The US also marked al-Shabaab, al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin and Taliban as 'Entities of Particular Concern'. — PTI

Indian-origin couple among first to get shots

LONDON, DECEMBER 8



TRACKING COVID

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	2,91,016
BRAZIL	1,77,388
MEXICO	1,10,074
UK	61,434
ITALY	60,606

WORLDOMETER TILL DEC 8, 10 PM

NHS Foundation Trust said. They join 90-year-old Margaret "Maggie" Keenan from Coventry as the very first in the world to receive the shot. — PTI

Boris to head to Brussels to end Brexit deadlock

LONDON, DECEMBER 8

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will fly to Brussels this week for crunch talks to try and break the deadlock with the EU over a post-Brexit trade agreement ahead of the December 31 deadline.

The clock is ticking for the end of the Brexit transition period and unless the UK and EU are able to thrash out and ratify a deal by the end of this month, Britain will have left the 27-member economic bloc on January 1, 2021, with the prospect of tariffs on

goods as both sides trade on World Trade Organisation terms. "I'm always hopeful, but I've got to be honest, the situation at the moment is very tricky," Johnson told the BBC. "We will see where we get to in the course of the next two days, but I think the UK government's position is that we are willing to engage at any level," he said. — PTI



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kamal Kishor Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh do hereby declare Chandigarh City as Water Plus City as all the necessary conditions for SBM Water Plus protocol laid down by MoHUA have been achieved by Municipal Corporation Chandigarh. Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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

E-Tender Notice No: 02/RF/ZR/2020-21 Dated: 07.12.2020

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Rajasthan Feeder Division, Ferozepur hereby invited bids on Contract/Agreement basis for 20 Nos. Works of Relining of Rajasthan Feeder from eligible bidders through our website: [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/</a](https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/)

BRIEFLY

Saha hits 54 to rescue India A in drawn match

Wriddhiman Saha got valuable batting practice ahead of the first Test against Australia but his famed colleagues failed to bat long as India A's warm-up game against Australia A ended in a draw here today. Medium-pacer Mark Steketee took 5/37 to put India in trouble at 127/6 and 143/9, but Saha top-scored with 54 to save the visitors from embarrassment.

BRIEF SCORES: India A 247/9d (Rahane 117*) & 189/9d (Saha 54*); Aus A: 306/9d (Green 125) & 52/1

NEW DELHI

Learning new things, says PV Sindhu on England trip

PV Sindhu has said her trip to England has helped her raise her fitness levels during the Covid-imposed shutdown of sport this year. The 25-year-old shuttler has spent the last few weeks in London working with sports nutritionist Rebecca Randell. She has also been training with Badminton England's Toby Penty and Raja Ouseph at the National Training Centre.

NEW DELHI

BFI elections postponed

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) elections, which were to be conducted at its December 18 Annual General Meeting, have been postponed, after a majority of the state associations' sought a postponement, citing the Covid pandemic. BFI needs to get its elections done by the end of this year to regain recognition from the Sports Ministry.

WELLINGTON

Pakistan team released from managed isolation

The Pakistan cricket team has been allowed to leave managed isolation to begin preparations for the T20 and Test series against New Zealand. All members of the squad tested negative on the 12th day of 14-day isolation and will be allowed to train as a group. The exemption to train in smaller groups after the third day in isolation was revoked when players breached protocols by mingling in corridors and sharing food. AGENCIES

This is now an Olympics sport!

Breakdancing in for Paris 2024; boxing, lifting medals reduced

GENEVA, DECEMBER 8 Breakdancing has become an official Olympic sport.

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) pursuit of urban events to lure a younger audience saw street dance battles officially added to the medal events program at the 2024 Paris Games.

Also confirmed for Paris by the IOC executive board were skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing. These three sports will make their Olympics debuts at the Tokyo Games which were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic by one year to open on July 23, 2021.

Alongside the additions, the IOC made subtraction: The slate of 329 medal events in Paris is 10 fewer than in Tokyo, including four lost from weightlifting.



The 'sport' of 'breaking' will make its Olympics debut at Paris 2024. PHOTO: IOC

BOXING, WEIGHTLIFTING MEDALS TO BE CUT

- The slate of 329 medal events in Paris is 10 fewer than in Tokyo, including four lost from weightlifting
- The athlete quota in 2024 of 10,500 is 600 less than 2021
- Weightlifting should have 120 athletes in Paris, which is less than half of its total at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games

have 120 athletes in Paris, which is less than half of its total at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. The sport could be dropped entirely due to its doping problems and IOC concerns over the pace and depth of reform at the International Weightlifting Federation. The IOC stressed its future priorities for Paris, and beyond to the 2028 Los Angeles Games, by claiming it will hit a long-term target of equal participation by men and women athletes, and more urbanised events.

With Paris organisers needing time to prepare their project, the IOC kept to its pre-pandemic schedule to confirm the 2024 sports lineup this month even before some are tested in Tokyo. Break-

dancing will be called 'breaking' at the Olympics, as it was in the 1970s by hip-hop pioneers in the United States.

It was proposed by Paris organisers almost two years ago after positive trials at the 2018 Youth Olympics. Breaking passed further stages of approval in 2019 from separate decisions by the IOC board and full membership.

In Paris, breaking has been given a prestige downtown venue, joining sport climbing and 3-on-3 basketball at Place de la Concorde. Surfing will be held more than 15,000km away in the Pacific Ocean off Tahiti. —AP/PTI

Italy on tough road to 2022 qualification

ZURICH, DECEMBER 8

After missing out on the 2018 World Cup, Italy have been handed a challenging path to the 2022 tournament in Qatar. The four-time world champions were drawn in a qualifying group with Switzerland, who made it to the last three World Cups and were the highest-ranked team outside of the top seeds.

Italy's failure in the 2018 playoffs cost FIFA around \$100 million in lost television revenue. Only the first-placed teams qualify automatically.

"I think it will be a fight between us and Switzerland," Italy coach Roberto Mancini said.

EURO GROUPS FOR 2022

- Group A:** Portugal, Serbia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Azerbaijan
- Group B:** Spain, Sweden, Greece, Georgia, Kosovo
- Group C:** Italy, Switzerland, N. Ireland, Bulgaria, Lithuania
- Group D:** France, Ukraine, Finland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan
- Group E:** Belgium, Wales, Czech Republic, Belarus, Estonia
- Group F:** Denmark, Austria, Scotland, Israel, Faroe Islands, Moldova
- Group G:** Netherlands, Turkey, Norway, Montenegro, Latvia, Gibraltar
- Group H:** Croatia, Slovakia, Russia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta
- Group I:** England, Poland, Hungary, Albania, Andorra, San Marino
- Group J:** Germany, Romania, Iceland, North Macedonia, Armenia, Liechtenstein

► I'm not going to jump for joy, one always needs to be humble and show respect to all these teams. Obviously, as a seeded team France will be favourites, but we need to make sure we do deliver. — Didier Deschamps, FRANCE COACH

Italy will contest the Nations League finals next year, meaning they have only four opponents in Group C. Northern Ireland, Bulgaria and Lithuania. World Cup holders France, Belgium and Spain are also vying for UEFA's newest title next year.

France are in Group D with Ukraine, Finland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kazakhstan.

Germany face five opponents in Group J, but only

North Macedonia qualified for the European Championship next year, unlike Romania, Iceland, Armenia and Liechtenstein. "We are going into the race as the big favourites," said Joachim Loew, who remains Germany coach despite recent poor results.

The Netherlands, another powerhouse to miss out on the 2018 World Cup, are in Group G with Turkey, Norway, Montenegro, Latvia and Gibraltar. —AP/PTI

HARYANA STATE AGRICULTURE MARKETING BOARD, PANCHKULA

The HSAMB invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the interested parties for Setting up of following projects on PPP Mode under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) in various Market Yards in the State:-

Description of eligible projects	Tentative Quantity
Weigh Bridge (60 Ton)	72 Nos.
Cool Chamber (10 Ton)	13 Nos.
Fruit Ripening Chambers (20 Ton)	8 Nos.
Pack house (5 TPH)	15 Nos.
Cold Storage Unit (5000 Ton)	1 No.

Further information of the project may be seen at the HSAMB website www.hsamb.org.in.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)	
1 Name of Work with its Location	Fabrication, Supplying, providing & fixing of steel stool for Br. No. 60-A & 100 over Ambala Division.
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1436063.54
3 Earnest Money	Rs. 28700.00
4 Completion period of the work	(04) Four Months
5 Cost of tender form	Rs. 2000/- Note: -Cost of EMD & Tender Form should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE/ICT/51 dated 31.08.2020
6 Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 01.01.2021 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
7 Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen & downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No: 32-W-BR-60A-100-UMB Date: 07.12.2020

2737/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SURGEON KURUKSHETRA

Online tender is hereby invited for appointment of Concurrent Auditor for District Health & Family Welfare Society (DH&FW Society), Kurukshetra for Audit of all programmes under NHM & Non NHM for FY 2020-21 in Kurukshetra District. For detail please visit <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>. Civil Surgeon, Kurukshetra

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
Tender Notice No. 16 Date 07/12/2020

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1, PWD B&R, Ferozepur on behalf of Governor of Punjab invites the item rate bids separately for each package in electronic tendering system for upgradation of Roads under PMGSY-III (Batch-I) in the District of Fazilka (Block Jalalabad) for One number packages namely PB-19310 including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with Punjab PWD (B&R). Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement:- 09/12/2020.

For further details regarding availability of bid Documents, Mode of Submission, Detail of works & PIUs, DNIT, Bill of Quantities, eligibility of bidders, submission of bids and last date/time for receipt of bids for each package log on to website www.pmgstyenders.gov.in

Tender notice will be also available on websites www.prdbd.gov.in and www.pwdpunjab.gov.in w.e.f 09/12/2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Constrn. Divn. No.1, PWD B&R Br., Ferozepur.

DPR/Pb/114424

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
Tender Notice No. 16 Date 07/12/2020

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1, PWD B&R, Ferozepur on behalf of Governor of Punjab invites the item rate bids separately for each package in electronic tendering system for upgradation of Roads under PMGSY-III (Batch-I) in the District of Fazilka (Block Jalalabad) for One number packages namely PB-19310 including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with Punjab PWD (B&R). Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement:- 09/12/2020.

For further details regarding availability of bid Documents, Mode of Submission, Detail of works & PIUs, DNIT, Bill of Quantities, eligibility of bidders, submission of bids and last date/time for receipt of bids for each package log on to website www.pmgstyenders.gov.in

Tender notice will be also available on websites www.prdbd.gov.in and www.pwdpunjab.gov.in w.e.f 09/12/2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Constrn. Divn. No.1, PWD B&R Br., Ferozepur.

DPR/Pb/114424

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Bharat bandh hits life in some states

Shops remain closed, commuters affected as protesters squat on roads, rly tracks

NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH, DEC 8

Life was disrupted in several parts of the country on Tuesday as shops and commercial establishments stayed closed, transport was affected and protesters squatted on key roads and rail tracks in response to a Bharat bandh called by farmers demanding a repeal of the new agri laws.

The nationwide shutdown was observed at 10,000 places in 25 states, claimed Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav. Emergency services were exempted and banks, too, continued operations as the pan-India shutdown, backed by most opposition parties and trade unions, rolled out noisily, but peacefully with its impact felt in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, the epicentre of the snowballing protests, as well as in states such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar and Jharkhand.

In West Bengal, where the ruling Trinamool Congress joined the Congress and the Left in supporting the shutdown but stayed away from enforcing it, the response was mixed.



Farmers at the Singhu border during their protest against the farm laws on Tuesday. PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL



US lawmakers voice support

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

Several members of the US House of Representatives have come out in support of the agitating farmers.

Republican Congressman Doug LaMalfa said he stood in solidarity with Punjabi farmers protesting for their livelihood and protection from "misguided and manipulative government regulations". They must be allowed to protest peacefully, he demanded.

Democratic Congressman Joshua Keck Harder wanted the Indian government to uphold the right to peaceful demonstration. — TNS

WOULD HAVE GONE, BUT WAS STOPPED: KEJRI



If I was not stopped, I would have gone and supported the protesting farmers in their movement. I am glad that Bharat bandh was a success. I prayed for the protesting farmers while sitting inside. Arvind Kejriwal, DELHI CM

Laws don't reflect reforms: Hooda

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda today said there was a need for agricultural reforms, but the current farm laws did not reflect any reform and needed to be scrapped.

He said the farm laws were passed in Parliament this September without any consultations with the stakeholders and therefore the Centre must call a parliament session, repeal these laws and start the reform process afresh.

"We are not against reforms, but the current laws must be repealed and fresh reform process initiated after consultations with stakeholders," the former Haryana Chief Minister today said, addressing reporters at the AICC headquarters here.

On the issue of 2019 Congress manifesto promising to abolish the APMC Act, a matter flagged by minister Ravi Shankar Prasad yesterday, Hooda said the BJP was "misrepresenting facts".

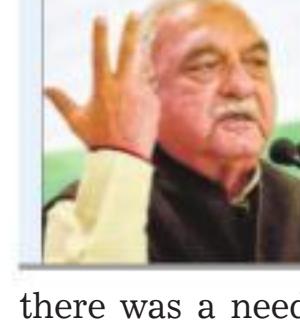
"We promised to improve logistics and then initiate reform. We said we will take the mandis near the farmers and in Haryana we did that. In my own village we have set up purchase centres at every 10 km," he said.

The senior leader said



A vendor outside a closed shop at APMC market in Mumbai. PTI

'CURRENT LAWS MUST BE REPEALED'



We are not against reforms, but the current laws must be repealed and fresh reform process initiated after consultations with stakeholders.

Bhupinder Singh Hooda, FORMER HARYANA CM

there was a need for farm reforms, but "there is no reflection of reforms in the current agriculture laws".

Insisting that the Bharat bandh was successful and peaceful today, Hooda urged the Haryana Governor to call an emergency session of the state Assembly and allow a floor test.

"Seven of the 10 MLAs of BJP ally JJP have dissociated from the government on the farmers' issue and three independents have also done so. The government is in minority and we will move a no-confidence vote on it the day a session is called," he said.

Hooda also said the Haryana Government had lost the trust of the people and the Assembly due to "mishandling" of the farmers' agitation and should

face a vote of no-confidence.

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Niti CEO: Too much of democracy makes reforms difficult

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said it was difficult to carry out tough reforms in India as there was "too much of democracy".

Kant also tweeted this observation, made during a virtual event organised by Swarajya magazine, but deleted it after a backlash on social media.

Speaking on protests by farmers against the Centre's three new farm laws, he said, "It is very important to understand this that the MSPs will be there, mandis will remain... farmers must have a choice to sell their products as they benefit out of this."

Kant said this was the first government that had carried out hard reforms across sectors, including mining,

'NEED POLITICAL WILL'

Tough reforms are very difficult in Indian context. You needed political will to take such measures. It will be a daunting task to compete with China without reforms

Amitabh Kant, NITI AAYOG CEO

coal, labour and agriculture, but felt states must push the next wave of reforms.

"Tough reforms are very difficult in the Indian context, we have too much of democracy... You needed political will to carry out these reforms (mining, coal, labour, agriculture) and many more reforms still need to be done," he said. — TNS



Women protest during Bharat bandh in Nagpur on Tuesday. PTI

Defence Ministry stops 'illegal' pay cut of troops

AJAY BANERJEE
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

1/3RD SALARY USED TO BE DEDUCTED

■ One-third salary of jawans and junior commissioned officers was deducted in case the unit's Commanding Officer did not report any 'occurrence' about troops for 10 months

■ The 'occurrence' includes promotions, illness, leave, official movement, postings, leave for marriage, birth of child, missing in action, battle casualty, absent without leave

Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, had taken up the matter and asked the CGDA to show any letter authorising such a deduction.

The deduction was being done by the CGDA in case the Commanding Officer of unit (Colonel-level officer) did not report any 'occurrence' for 10 months.

Sources told *The Tribune* that the "occurrence" includes promotions, illness, leave, official movement, postings, leave for marriage, birth of child, missing in action, battle casualty and absent without leave.

Why the CGDA started deducting salaries when the 'Part-II' report was not made is still unclear. The MoD makes it clear that the Commanding Officer or his superiors will face action in case they fail to initiate a report of battle casualties or for those missing in action or those absent with leave.

\$500 mn loan for B'luru metro lines

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said it has approved a \$500 million loan to construct new metro rail lines in Bengaluru. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Project will establish two new metro rail corridors to augment an efficient and safe transportation system.

The project will construct two new metro lines, mostly elevated, with a total length of 56 km along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport, the ADB said. — PTI

Gen Naravane's visit comes in the midst of fast-paced developments in the Gulf region, including normalisation of Israel's relations with several Arab countries as well as situation arising out of the assassination of Iran's top nuclear weapons scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

The Army Chief's first destination will be the UAE, where he will meet senior military officials and discuss avenues for enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. — PTI

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Mandi invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Form	Time Limit
1	Imp & Aug of WSS Bhatwari, Shala Shara, Nihlu, Odidhar, Rains, Nasir & Batta Chunani in GP Bhatwari, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing and Testing of gravity Main GI Pipe 32mm dia from Node C-G=1100 Rmt from RD 0 to 1100, Node E-F = 700 Rmt from RD 0 to 700 Rmt, Node P-Q = 1750 Rmt RD 0 - 1750, Total length = 3550 Rmt).	3,58,550/-	7,171/-	250/-	Three Months
2	Imp & Aug of WSS Bhatwari, Shala Shara, Nihlu, Odidhar, Rains, Nasir & Batta Chunani in GP Bhatwari, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing and Testing of gravity Main GI Pipe 65mm dia from Node A-B = 3800 Rmt from RD 3800 to 7600).	4,98,708/-	9974/-	250/-	Three Months
3	Imp & Aug of WSS Bhatwari, Shala Shara, Nihlu, Odidhar, Rains, Nasir & Batta Chunani in GP Bhatwari, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing and Testing of gravity Main GI Pipe 65mm dia from Node A-B = 3800 Rmt from RD 0 to 3800).	4,97,800/-	9956/-	250/-	Three Months
4	Providing Sewerage Facility to lefot houses in MC Area of Mandi Town, (SH:- Laying, jointing and Testing of DI pipeline 150mm dia, C/o RCC Manhole Chmber near village Nela to Langni RD 660 to 825 = 165 Rmt).	1,63,014/-	3300/-	250/-	Three Months
5	Restoration of Rain Damages to LWSS Ardhia G/o villages in GP Tung & Bijan, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Providing and Laying RCC Jacketing to Storage Tank Circular and Rectangular at Baksha Gharat).	2,39,256/-	4800/-	250/-	Three Months
6	Restoration of Rain Damages to WSS Hamgram, Chhipnoo in GP Bijni, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- C/o Source Intake Chamber with Filter Unit at Hamgram and Dhanog).	1,49,645/-	3000/-	250/-	Three Months
7	Providing FHTC to the Balance house holds of various villages in GP Tilly Keharwal and Sanyardh, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, jointing and Testing of GI pipe 40mm dia = 600 Rmt) (UNDER JJM).	2,90,596/-	5900/-	250/-	Three Months
8	Restoration of Rain Damages to LWSS Rana Khad to Kot, Tehsil Kotli, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Fabrication and construction of arrangement for submersible pump set in Rana Khad near Sump well).	3,49,721/-	7000/-	250/-	Three Months
9	Restoration of Rain Damages to LWSS Mandi Town. (SH:- C/o R/wall to protect the existing abutment of suspension bridge near swimming pool Mandi 1st stage).	1,49,601/-	3000/-	250/-	Three Months
10	Restoration of Rain Damages to LWSS Mandi Town. (SH:- C/o R/wall to protect the existing abutment of suspension bridge near swimming pool Mandi 2nd stage).	1,35,983/-	2750/-	250/-	Three Months
11	Providing FHTC to the Balance households in GP Baggi Tungal, Sai, Nichla Lot, Kasan, Sehli, Kot and Dahanwan, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing, Testing of GI pipeline 20mm dia = 1350 Rmt. Total = 1350 Rmt (UNDER JJM)).	1,45,675/-	2950/-	250/-	Three Months
12	Providing FHTC to the Balance households in GP Baggi Tungal, Sai, Nichla Lot, Kasan, Sehli, Kot and Dahanwan, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing, Testing of GI pipeline 15mm dia = 1400 Rmt. Total = 1400 Rmt (UNDER JJM)).	1,49,623/-	3000/-	250/-	Three Months
13	Providing FHTC to the Balance households in GP Baggi Tungal, Sai, Nichla Lot, Kasan, Sehli, Kot and Dahanwan, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing, Testing of GI pipeline 15mm dia = 1450 Rmt (UNDER JJM)).	1,54,672/-	3100/-	250/-	Three Months
14	Providing LWSS to NCP/PC habitation Roda Nallah Sathan in GP Lagchar, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Laying, Jointing and Testing of GI pipe 20mm dia = 1500 Rmt from clear water tank at 2nd stage towards village Khalanoo).	1,57,077/-	3200/-	250/-	Three Months
15	Providing LWSS in GP Marathu, Janed, Natred (Randhara) in Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- C/o Nallah Intake Chmber and Retaining wall for intake protection).	1,05,802/-	2150/-	250/-	Three Months
16	Providing WSS Jagar Maharan Basta in GP Jagar, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Mandi, HP (SH:- Providing & placing of Horizontal Layer filtering media in filter Bed Unit No. II).	1,28,738/-	2600/-	250/-	Three Months
17	Providing Sewerage Facility to lefot houses in MC Area of Mandi Town. (SH:- Laying, jointing and Testing of DI pipeline 150mm dia, and C/o RCC Manhole Chamber RD 500 to 660 = 160 at near village Nela to Langni).	1,61,131/-	3300/-	250/-	Three Months

Last date of sale of tender form from divisional office: 10.12.2020 up to 1.30 P.M. The tender shall be received on dated 11.12.2020 till 3.00 P.M. and shall be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M. in presence of tendered or their authorized representative.

The tender detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hipiph.org and tender form from office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Mandi up to date specified above after showing the documents as mentioned at Sr. No. 1 to 5 of terms and conditions.

Terms and conditions

Note: Following documents are required at the time of submission of tenders forms, tenders received without following documents will summarily be rejected.

- Copy of Enlistment/renewal of contractor in appropriate class with Jal Shakti Vibhag.
- The earnest money in shape of Demand Draft or NSC in any post office of H.P or FDR or any nationalized bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Mandi, Distt. Mandi. Exemption of EMD shall be allowed.
- Copy of GST Registration certificate.
- Copy of PAN No.
- The contractors/Firm must quote their rates in words as well as in figures.
- Telegram, emailed or tenders through Fax shall not be accepted.

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Mandi.

DPR/H/4806

SC stays contempt proceedings against Maha Governor

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the contempt proceedings against Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for alleged non-compliance of the Uttarakhand High Court's last year order on payment of rent by former chief ministers of the state to pay market rent for the entire period they continued to occupy government accommodation since demitting office.