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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 140 NO. 348 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

NEARLY 1.4 LAKH GIVEN SHOTS IN UK WORLD

SENSEX, NIFTY AT NEW PEAKS ON POSITIVE CUES BUSINESS

PM MEETS UK FOREIGN SECY, DISCUSSES TIES BACK PAGE



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

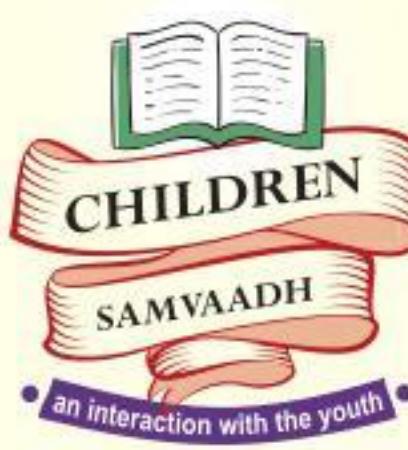


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17th DEC 2020 | Time: 11 AM
Capture of Tiger Hill - Video & Talk by Sub Maj Yogender Singh, PVC

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SC hints at panel for talks; notice to govt

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16
The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on petitions seeking removal of agitating farmers from roads in Delhi as commuters faced blockades since November 26 when thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Western UP descended on the national capital.

Terming it a "matter of national importance", a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde said such issues needed to be resolved through negotiations.

Asking the petitioners to make farmers' bodies party to the petition, it said a panel of representatives of farmers' organisations and government nominees and other

Farm stir: Pleas seek removal of blockades

stakeholders had to be formed to conduct negotiations to resolve the issue. "It will soon become a national issue. All of you sit together. Prepare a tentative list of committee members," the CJI said, postponing the matter for further hearing on Thursday.

The farmers' outfits that have been added as parties to the case are BKU (Rakesh Tikait), BKU (Sidhpur), BKU (Rajewal), BKU (Lakhawal), Jamhoori Kisan Sabha (Kulwant Singh Sandhu), BKU-Dakaunda (Buta Singh Burjill), BKU-Doaba (Manjit Singh Rai) and Kul Hind Kisan Federation (Prem Singh Bhangu).

Stop parallel talks, farmers' forum tells Centre

Formally turns down Union Govt's proposal to amend laws | Don't 'discredit' agitation, it warns

MUKESH TANDON

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 16

The farmers' joint forum has formally rejected the Centre's proposal to amend the contentious farm laws. Representatives of farmers at a meeting with the Centre had on December 9 turned down the proposal but the government maintained that it had not received anything in writing.

Krantikari Kisan Union's Darshan Pal, in a letter to the Union Government on Wednesday, also sought that parallel talks with other farm bodies be stopped and the government must not "discredit" the stir. Braving the cold, thousands of farmers have been protesting at the Singhu and Tikri borders

PREACHER SHOOTS SELF AT SINGHU; UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY, SAYS BADAL

Baba Ram Singh (65) of Gurdwara Sahib Nanaksar Singh in Nissing area of Karnal reportedly shot himself near the main stage at Singhu on Wednesday, leaving a suicide note in Punjabi. Sources said he would daily visit the protest site to express solidarity with the farmers. He was rushed to a private hospital in Panipat where the doctors declared him "brought dead". He headed Ek Onkar Ashram Thath Nanaksar Singh and had a sizeable following in the country and abroad. INSIDE

for the past 20 days, demanding that the recent farm laws be repealed.

Dilbagh Singh, a farmhand, who cycled all the way



from Panchwar village in Tarn Taran district of Punjab to the Singhu border, said: "The government should repeal the laws. If

the farmer does not survive, the farm labourer will not survive either. It's a matter of do or die for us." Former DIG (Prisons) Lakhminder Singh Jakhar, who resigned recently, and Kavita Vinod Khanna, wife of the late Gurdaspur MP and actor Vinod Khanna, were among

those who joined the protesters at Singhu on Wednesday. "I am with the farmers. It's a worrying situation," the latter said.

REPEAL AGRI LAWS, SAY WAR VETERANS

A number of 1971 war veterans, while commemorating Vijay Divas at Singhu border, on Wednesday opposed the three farm laws, showing solidarity with the protesting farmers. The Acts should be repealed, they said. INSIDE

20 FARMERS FROM PB, HRY DEAD SINCE NOV

At least 20 farmers from Punjab and Haryana have died during the agitation since November 24 — some in road accidents and some owing to health issues, say sources. INSIDE

Tele products from China to face curbs

Telcos to buy from 'trusted sources'

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE & PTI



The next spectrum auction will be held in March

The DoT plans to sell 2,251 MHz of spectrum

₹3,500-CR SUGAR EXPORT SUBSIDY

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved ₹3,500-crore sugar export subsidy for 60 lakh tonnes during 2020-21. It announced to transfer the subsidy directly into bank accounts of cane growers. TNS

adviser," he said.

The committee would be called the national security committee on telecom, Prasad said, adding that it would also create a list of designated sources from whom "no procurement can be done".

The directive had provision to qualify gear made by domestic players, the minister said, adding that those meeting the criteria of preferential market access scheme would be certified as India trusted sources.

Congress walks out of defence panel meet

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and his colleagues today walked out of a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on defence alleging the panel was discussing rank structure of the armed forces, their uniform and badges when the nation was confronted with security challenges along the LAC.

Gandhi and Congress MPs Rajeev Satav and Revanth Reddy left the meeting midway after an Army officer made a detailed presentation on the rank structure,

Discuss LAC, not uniform, says Rahul

including uniform, stars and badges, to the committee members.

"Why is time being wasted on all this?" Gandhi said, with committee chairperson Jual Oram asking him to first listen as to why the presentation was necessary.

Gandhi, however, insisted on "stopping the waste of time" and instead discuss how to equip soldiers better to take on the Chinese at the LAC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



JEE-Mains now 4 times a year

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

The JEE-Mains for admission to engineering colleges will be held four times a year from 2021, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan Nishank said on Wednesday.

The first edition of the exam will be held from February 23-26, followed by rounds in March, April and May. "The move will ensure that students don't miss out on opportunities due to clash of exams," he added. PTI

Govt to borrow \$1 bn to soften Covid blow

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

The Centre today signed a \$1 billion (Rs 7,500 crore) agreement with New Development Bank (NDB) to fund its rural employment and infrastructure schemes.

These schemes will help mitigate the adverse economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and enable economic recovery in rural areas, a press note said.

India has already borrowed \$1 billion from the NDB which was jointly set up by BRICS nations. The loan agreement was signed by Baldeo Purushtha from the Union Ministry of Finance and Xian Zhu of the NDB.

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

RECOVERED 94,56,449
FRESH FATALITIES 387
TOTAL DEATHS 1,44,096
COUNT 99,32,547

WORLD
TOTAL 7,40,10,501
RECOVERED 5,19,83,869
DEATHS 16,45,854

THE TARGET

- Mitigating the adverse economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic
- Creating durable rural assets and jobs for rural poor

Baldeo Purushtha from the Union Ministry of Finance and Xian Zhu of the NDB.

Justice Mithal is next CJ of J&K High Court

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

Justice Pankaj Mithal of the Allahabad High Court will be the next Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde has also recommended Calcutta

Justice Sanjib Banerjee to head Madras HC

High Court's Justice Sanjib Banerjee for appointment as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. Justice Sudhan-shu Dhulia of the Uttarakhand High Court has been recommended for appointment as the new Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court.

In a major reshuffle, the Collegium, in its December 14 meeting, also recommended transfer of Chief Justices of high courts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim and Odisha.

2 judges forced retired, HC wields the stick

SAURABH MALIK

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

In an unprecedented move apparently aimed at cleansing the subordinate judiciary, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has started proceedings against its judicial officers.

Its Full Court, comprising the Chief Justice and the other judges, has compulsorily retired two additional district and sessions judges.

In all, action has been taken

CLEAN-UP BY PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT

- Addl Dist & Sessions Judges VP Gupta & Rajinder Goel forced retired
- Probationers Abhinav Sekhon, Nazmeen Singh discharged
- Sub-Judges Tanvir Singh and Pradeep Singh suspended
- Action/proceedings initiated against 16 judicial officers in all

or proceedings started against 16 officers, including the judge who conducted trial in the gang-rape and murder case of an eight-year-old from Kathua.

The services of two sub-judges have also been placed under suspension. Besides this, the functioning of two district and sessions judges has come under the HC scanner with the ordering of reg-

The services of two sub-judges have also been placed under suspension. Besides this, the functioning of two district and sessions judges has come under the HC scanner with the ordering of reg-

ular inquiries against them.

This is the first time in recallable past that the HC has taken action at such a large scale against its judicial officers, sending across a strong message of zero tolerance against indiscipline, complacency and other factors in the subordinate judiciary.

The Full Court meeting, first since the HC went into restrictive functioning mode in March due to Covid outbreak, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Hockey skipper weds Malaysian with Pak roots

DEEPMALA KAUR

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, DECEMBER 16

After an eight-year courtship, wedding bells finally rang for Indian hockey team captain Manpreet Singh (28) and his Malaysian fiancée Ili Najwa Sadique (27).

The wedding took place at a gurdwara at Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar here on Wednesday. It was followed by lunch for about 60-70 invit-

tees at Manpreet's native Mithapur village.

Manpreet donned a ceremonial Punjabi wedding suit complete with a turban, while Ili wore a Punjabi bridal costume.

Sharing his love story, Manpreet said: "We met in 2012 when I had gone to Malaysia for the Sultan of Johor Cup. She was among the spectators. We had a brief interaction and I was carried away

engaged in February 2014."

When asked if Ili would return to Malaysia, he said: "She will stay with my family here. She is getting accustomed to the Punjabi culture and has already become fond of it. We have given her a Punjabi name, Navpreet Kaur."

The Malaysia-born bride's family hails from Pakistan. Ili was working in a private university in Malaysia.

The couple had reportedly been planning wedding earlier this year, but travel restrictions due to the pandemic made them put off their plan.

"We have followed all Covid-related guidelines and invited a limited number of guests. I am a bit disappointed that I could not invite my entire team," Manpreet said.

Jalandhar Cantonment MLA Pargat Singh was among the invitees.



India hockey captain Manpreet Singh with his bride. PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

Two more die in mishaps on way to Delhi

HOSHIARPUR, DECEMBER 16 A farmer and a teenager who were going to Delhi to take part in the farmers' protest were killed in two accidents today. Kulwinder Singh, a farmer from Sataur village in the district, died in a road accident near Mandi Gobindgarh.

As per information, Kulwinder Singh left for Delhi in a Bolero, along with a friend, on Wednesday to join the Delhi Kisan Morcha. When he reached near Mandi Gobindgarh, the vehicle met with an accident and Kulwinder Singh died.

In the second incident, Gurjinder Singh (16), hailing from Thana village of Garhshankar, was killed after falling from a tractor-trailer. Gurjinder, who was studying in class X, was going to Delhi along with villagers to join the farmers' movement. In the evening, Gurjinder was cremated in his native village. He was about to leave for the US. — OC

20 dead in stir, families send other members to Capital

PARVESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 16

Farmers are paying a heavy price for the Delhi protest as around 20 of them have lost their lives due to various reasons since November 24. Some lost lives due to accidents while others succumbed to health problems, but neither the farmers are willing to backtrack nor the families of the deceased.

"My father Baldev Singh (76) died of cold. After Haryana cops used water canons, he caught fever and other health problems. He was brought to Balian village on December 8 and died after some time. My father has laid down his life to save farming and we are proud of him. A member of our family will join the protest after the 'bhog,' said Raghuvir Singh."

THEY KNOW REPEAL OF FARM LAWS VITAL

Even after losing their kin, families of the deceased farmers are sending other members to join the protest as they know that getting the farm laws repealed is important. Karmjit Singh, BKU (Dakaunda) leader

In all, seven farmers have lost their lives in accidents, two due to cold and 11 due to cardiac arrest. With the start of intense fog and dip in temperature, the protesting farmers are likely to face more problems as there are many elderly in the protest who are already facing various health problems. The intense cold will make things tougher for them. Since families are sending their members to participate in the protest on rotation, fog will create problems in their movement.

"Even after losing their kin, families of the deceased farmers are sending other members to join the protest as they know that black laws will kill farming," said Karmjit Singh, a BKU (Dakaunda) leader from Sherpur.

As per details, On December 10 night, Bhag Singh (75) from Baddowal village of Ludhiana died at the Singhu border due to alleged cold that he suffered after excessive use of water cannons by the Haryana police during his march towards Delhi. Balbir Singh (57) from Bagga vil-

lage lost his life when on December 11 after he was hit by a vehicle near Tangra in Amritsar. Makhan Singh, a labourer from Bindar Kalan village of Moga, died on December 14 of a cardiac arrest. Gurpreet Singh (24) and Labh Singh (60) from Sapeda village of Patiala were killed after a truck rammed into their tractor-trailer near the Toraori flyover in Karnal.

They were coming back from the Singhu border. Apart from it, 15 farmers from various parts of Punjab have lost their lives till from November 24 to December 9. "Neither Punjab nor the Centre are serious towards the plight of farmers. We have to launch a protest even for the well-being of the families of our martyrs," said Harjeet Singh, a BKU (Ugrahan) leader.

Warm gesture



Volunteers distribute blankets among farmers at the Singhu border. PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

NRI doctor holds medical camps

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 16

A US-based NRI and heart specialist Dr Swaiman Singh has come all the way from North America to Delhi to support the farmers' protest.

He, along with his team, is

holding medical camps and providing medicines worth lakhs free of cost to farmers at Singhu and Tikri borders.

Dr Swaiman Singh said: "Being an Indian and doctor, how can I see a large number

100-year-old mother in shock after son's death

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Pal Singh who died at Singhu

OWNED 1-ACRE LAND

Kissani layi sacha si oh. Ik acre wch vi bahut khush. Mainu bahut yaad ayo oh (He was always true to farming. Even happy with just one acre. I will miss him). Amarjit Kaur, PAL SINGH'S MOTHER



Women, including widows and relatives of farmers who killed themselves over debt, protest at the Tikri border. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Farm suicides: Kin join protest at Tikri border

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW LAWS WILL KILL US

My husband Tirath Singh committed suicide in 2009 after he failed to repay a debt of ₹8 lakh... I have not got any waiver as promised by Congress. The new farm laws will kill us. Angrej Kaur, A WIDOW

have not got any waiver. I have less than one acre of land. The new farm laws would kill us. We would die here, but would not allow its implementation," says Angrej Kaur, a widow from Mehnal chowk village.

Gurmale Kaur alleges her nephew Harbhajan Singh committed suicide four years after he failed to pay the school fee of his son. Harbhajan's family has not got any waiver while money lenders are asking for Rs 10 lakh.

Protesting women allege after the suicides of their

sole breadwinners they have neither any source of income nor any required land to cultivate crops, adding the indifferent attitude of successive governments have multiplied their woes.

"PM Narendra Modi must see the pain of these sisters, wives and mothers, who have lost their family members to debt. Their presence here with the photos of their deceased members is enough to prove that agriculture is already in huge losses. The Central farm

laws would make things worse," says Joginder Singh Ugrahan, president, BKU (Ugrahan).

Slogans like 'Inquilab Jindabad, Kale kanun vaapis karake jawange' rent the air during the protest while songs like 'Jind chhoti si, paige bhari dukt kure and hukhushya de rah te turge peo putt kude'

moist the eyes of all. "These all are widows of small farmers and they are not able to repay their debt when ?tMhe SP is already there and government purchase their crops. I want to ask the Central Government that from where they would repay their debt, when the government would stop the purchase and private players offer them little price," says Ugrahan.

1971 war veterans oppose agri laws

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



'UNIFORMED' MAN IN STIR RAISES CONCERN

Chandigarh: The government is closely watching the impact of the farmers' protest on the uniformed community as a large chunk of their manpower

come from rural areas and agrarian background. Concern has been raised in official circles after the photograph of a turbanned person wearing the Army field dress bearing a name tag at a protest site in Bathinda cropped up on the social media, prompting a probe by intelligence agencies to ascertain his identity and antecedents. TNS

appeal to the government to immediately consider the farmer unions' just demands and repeal the controversial laws," he said. The farmers' stir is growing stronger and stronger with each passing day, with support pouring in from various organisations.

Tikri protesters get washing machines

MUKTSAR, DECEMBER 16

An NGO from Muktsar has

donated four washing

machines to protesting

farmers at the Tikri border.

The NGO members

said two

machines were sponsored

by the NRIs.

Meanwhile,

a young horse breeder

Manjit

Singh from Alamwala

village in Malout subdivision has left for Delhi on his horse.

He said,

"This is my way of

protest. It doesn't mean if one

is not having any company or

tractor-trailer, he can't come to the protest sites." — TNS

On NH-9, 'repeal' chants all the way

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Once again people have travelled hundreds of miles on this road to defend their right to till the land. History won't let them down. Lachchman Singh Seawala, PENDU MAZDOOR UNION PRESIDENT

new metaphor of resistance which can scale any terrain. This uprising has created a new monument of resistance, where the young and the old come for pilgrimage. Sandeep Kaur, a school teacher from Kila Raipur in Ludhiana, says she wanted her seven-year-old daughter to see this historic struggle. "Rise against every act of injustice. That has been our tradition and I want her to understand," she says.

Same is the resolve of Yadwinder Singh from Vadda Chuga village in Muktsar. He says they have asked their families back home to cook food only after they return. They proudly narrate the heroic tales of how they changed the flow of water cannon and removed the barricades. The tractor seems to have become a

State did not respond to letter on train services: Rlys to HC

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

The Ministry of Railways today told the Punjab and Haryana High Court that the Punjab Government did not respond to its communication seeking confirmation for enabling it to resume passengers and goods services on the Beas-Amritsar section through the Jandiala railway station.

In a status report placed before the Bench of Chief Jus-

tice Ravi Shanker Jha and Justice Arun Palli, the Railways said the General Manager, Northern Railway, approached the Punjab Chief Secretary seeking confirmation about the restoration of passengers train services through the Jandiala railway station so that checking of the section and resumption of service could be carried out.

Finding no response, a reminder from the General

Manager, dated December 9, was sent to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, seeking confirmation. "However, the confirmation is still awaited". The directions came on a bunch of petitions filed by HC Arora and other petitioners. The Bench was on a previous date of hearing informed that talks were in progress both by the state government and the Centre with the farmers' organisations. — TNS

culture, forestry and fishing sectors, all other industries recorded a negative growth in this period. The agriculture sector registered a growth rate of 3.37 per cent, as procurement of wheat remained a record high, which benefitted over 42 lakh farmers with Rs 73,500 crore, thanks to the minimum support price.

Dr Gian Singh said: "The agriculture sector must be strengthened as the majority of the population depends on it." — TNS

Strengthen agri to support economy: Study

PATIALA, DECEMBER 16

As per a research paper published in the Indian Journal of Economics and Development, the Centre needs to strengthen the agriculture sector to support the country's falling GDP.

Dr Gian Singh, former professor, Punjabi University, Patiala, and assistant professors Dharmpal and Jyoti in their research paper 'Exploring the economic slowdown of India' stated that three new farm laws would affect employment, farmers' liveli-

hood and ultimately, the country's growth rate, due to entry of the corporates in the farming sector. The research also pointed out the most job-oriented farming sector remained only a promising sector during the April-June lockdown period. The trio said, "Except agri-

culture, forestry and fishing sectors, all other industries recorded a negative growth in this period. The agriculture sector registered a growth rate of 3.37 per cent, as procurement of wheat remained a record high, which benefitted over 42 lakh farmers with Rs 73,500 crore, thanks to the minimum support price.

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Muktsar couple dedicates marriage anniv to farmers

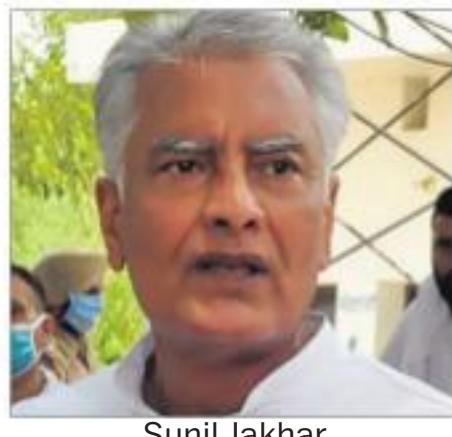
MUKTSAR, DECEMBER 16

To support the Delhi protesters, Baljinder Singh, an author-cum-farmer from Gurush Jodha village, here, celebrated his seventh wedding anniversary yesterday by cutting a cake having a photograph of an elderly farmer imprinted on it with the slogan 'Kisan mazdoor ekta zindabadi'.

Minu said, "My wife told me that we should celebrate our anniversary supporting the farmers' stir. Thus, we bought a cake from the neighbouring Malout town with a photograph of an elderly farmer and a slogan written on it. This is to show the Centre that the farmers are lodging protest in every possible manner." — TNS

Divide and rule BJP's strategy, says Congress

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Sunil Jakhar

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16
Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar today said while the Congress broke down an enemy nation into two parts in 1971, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying to break the social fabric of its own country.

"Tukde tukde is the characteristic theme of the BJP's strategy to survive by dividing people," Jakhar said while pointing out how the party was "trying to divide people in the name of region and religion for its survival".

In a statement issued on the occasion of 49th Vijay Divas celebrated to mark the birth of Bangladesh, Jakhar said the BJP should learn from the Congress as to how it united people of the country to defeat an enemy.

my nation. "Without unity among different sections, it would not have been possible to divide Pakistan into two pieces," he said.

Taking a dig at PM Narendra Modi's claims of '56 inch chest', Jakhar said, "You don't need to have a large chest, you need to be large-hearted to listen to your people and address their grievances." He said the PM was insensitive and indifferent to the plight of farmers.

Oppn misguiding farmers, says Malik

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 16

Amid farmers' protest, senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Shwaiat Malik tried to justify the newly enacted farm Acts during the party's awareness drive on the issue.

Addressing a press conference here, Malik emphasised that there was room for improvement and the BJP-led NDA government was ready to introduce amendments to the laws as sought by the farmers.

"As was the case of the GST, teething problems can be rectified. The dialogue between the ministers and farm unions is underway and a viable solution can be found. The Centre is ready to give a written assurance regarding the procurement system and the MSP. Similarly, the option of going to a civil court can also be offered," he said.

On the other hand, launching a scathing attack on party's estranged partner — SAD — and the Con-



BJP's Shwaiat Malik addresses the media in Amritsar. VISHAL KUMAR

BJP TO CONTEST ALL 117 SEATS: CHUGH

■ The BJP is expanding base in Punjab and ever since the farmers' agitation, over 3,000 persons from other parties have joined it, party general secretary Tarun Chugh said on Wednesday

■ He said the BJP had been contesting elections since 1952. "Even in 1992 when it contested without an alliance with any other party, it polled 16.7% votes and

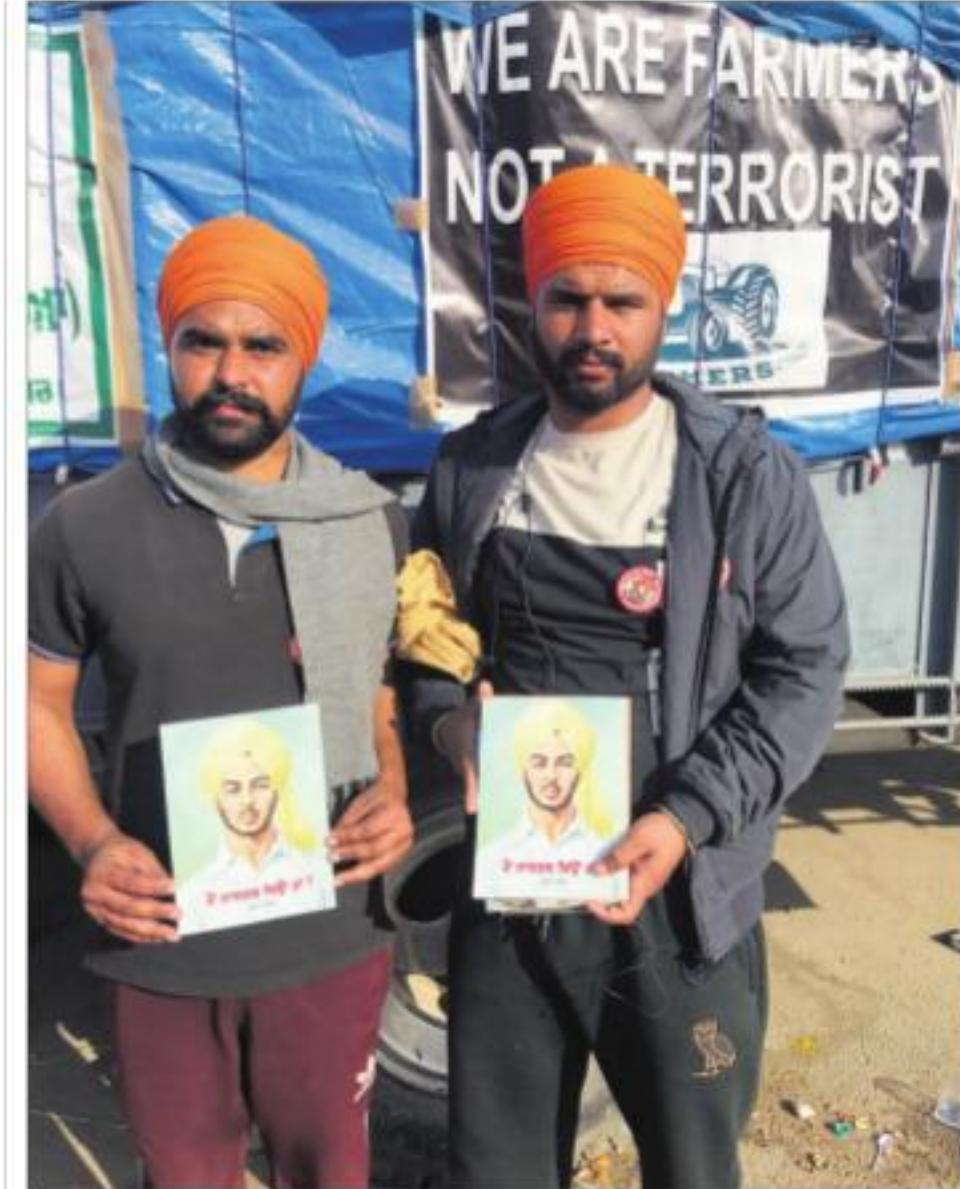
won 23 Assembly seats. The BJP is a firmly rooted party in Punjab," he said

■ On Sukhbir calling the BJP a 'tukde tukde' gang, Chugh said all Punjabis should wake up to the nefarious designs of Sukhbir. "BJP has always stood for Hindu-Sikh unity in Punjab and tried to foster the brotherhood whenever there were strains of stress," he added

gress, he alleged that opposition parties had been misguiding the farming community to gain political mileage.

Questioning SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal's "double standards", Malik said, "Was he and his wife, the then Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, not part of the panel when the farm laws were being formulated? Didn't they issue statements in favour of farm laws initially and what prompted them to take a total U-turn could be anybody's guess? They did it for their political convenience," he said.

Malik said the farm laws enacted recently were not 'new' but an 'amended version' of what was proposed during the Congress regime at the Centre. "The difference was that the Congress did not implement them whereas PM Narendra Modi took the initiative of introducing the amendments and implemented them keeping in view the betterment of farmers," he said.



LEGENDARY ICON: Youngsters from Amritsar hold a book on Bhagat Singh at the Singhu border on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Invoking Bhagat Singh, youth say it's a revolution

KARAM PRAKASH

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SINGHU BORDER, DEC 16

A group of youngsters sporting yellow turbans took out a protest rally at Singhu border, shouting "Inquilab Zindabad".

Two of them from Amritsar walk through the protesting site holding a book on Bhagat Singh, recalling old revolutionary days.

Manpreet Singh, 21, said: "The way farmers are breaking all barriers on their way to the Singhu border to fight against the farm laws is nothing less than a revolution. All sections of society are coming forward to participate in their fight."

A sea of youngsters wearing T-shirts bearing photos of Bhagat Singh stood out in the crowd. Many had pasted photos of the freedom fighters on their cars and tractors. Surinder Singh, 26, from Tarn Taran said the youngsters of Punjab had proved that they came from the land of revolutionaries. "The support of youngsters to the protest has turned it into a revolution. They (media) saw Khalistanis' stickers on a tractor but turned a blind eye to our revolutionary spirit," he said. Another youngster wearing a yellow turban said: "To bring in a revolution, you need grit and determination. We believe we have it in us. We will continue our fight against the three agricultural laws, and we will win."

Meet farmers in Delhi, not Gujarat: Mann

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16
AAP Punjab president and MP Bhagwant Mann accused PM Narendra Modi of being an avowed enemy of Punjab. He said when the entire farmer community was protesting outside Delhi, waiting to be heard, he fled to Gujarat.

Mann said there had always been a world of difference between what the PM said and did. He had once said he would be available for farmers 24X7, but he didn't care for millions of farmers waiting to meet him for 20 days. — TNS

Akali Dal was integral part of 'tukde tukde' gang: AAP

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SAD HAS LOST GROUND

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16
Reacting to the statement made by the SAD president, AAP MLA Amar Arora said Sukhbir Badal and his party were part of the very 'tukde tukde' they were criticising.

The Sunam MLA said while the farmers of Punjab, along with their brethren from other states, were fighting to save their lands and livelihood amid biting cold, the Akali

Dal was trying to reclaim its lost political ground.

Aroa said the SAD, which had called its former alliance partner BJP a 'tukde tukde'

gang, had been an integral part of the 'gang'. He said Harsimrat Kaur Badal was a minister in the government run by the alleged gang.

The SAD, which used to glorify the BJP, was now opposing its members, said Arora, adding that it would not waste a minute to reunite with the BJP as and when an opportunity arises. He said both parties were two sides of a coin and expert in playing divisive politics over religion.

SAD: Centre must resolve deadlock

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

The SAD today said the Centre should handle administrative matters and resolve the deadlock with farmers to their satisfaction, instead of depending on motivated pleas to forcibly lift the congregation of farmers from the borders of Delhi.

Former minister Daljit Singh Cheema said such pleas highlighted the failure of the NDA government, which was trying to use the SC to lift a peaceful and democratic protest. He said instead the

government could have arrived at a solution in Parliament by discussing the issue and repealing the farm laws.

Cheema also castigated the Centre for citing Covid-19 as an excuse to scrap the winter session. He said the BJP was holding rallies, with the PM addressing one in Kutch.

"It has also released a programme to hold 700 'Kisan Chaups'. When such programmes are being held, why is the BJP reluctant to hold a session?" he said. — TNS



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Capt. Amarinder Singh

Chief Minister, Punjab

and able guidance of

S. Balbir Singh Sidhu

Health & Family Welfare Minister, Punjab

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Mashkoh - Kargil As I Saw It
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CLARION CALL

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
JOSH AUR JASBAH Episodes

- The Rafael Aircraft
- Operation Meghdoot
- The Battle of Kohima
- The Legacy of the Gorkha Soldier

EVENTS AND PANELISTS

2:00 PM
to
3:30 PM

Chinese Air Power Capabilities

- ACM BS Dhanoa (Moderator)
- Jayadev Ranade, IPS
- Gp Capt RS Chhatwal
- AVM Arjun Subramanyam
- Col Chin
- Prof Xiaoming Zhang

3:30 PM
to
5:00 PM

Strategic Shift in the Pivot of Geography

- Maj Gen BK Sharma (Moderator)
- Vivek Katju, IFS
- Kanwal Sibal, IFS
- Manbir Singh, IFS
- Lt Gen PM Bali
- Shyam Saran, IFS
- Steve Coll

5:00 PM
to
6:30 PM

The Taliban are coming Calling: Deep States in Pakistan and India and the Role of Media

- Shekhar Gupta (Moderator)
- KC Singh, IFS
- Tavleen Singh
- Makarand Paranjape
- V Balachandran, IPS
- Dr C Christine Fair

6:30 PM
to
8:30 PM

Sabre Rattling in Ladakh

- Lt Gen DS Hooda (Moderator)
- Lt Gen HS Panag
- Ram Madhav
- AVM Manmohan Bahadur
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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Gurshan Kaur w/o Arshpreet Singh Gurna r/o H.No. 11, Street No. 5, Aman Vihar, Bhadson Road, Patiala, have changed my name to Gurshan Kaur Gurna. (CL20073772)

I, Sangita w/o Vinod Kumar r/o Village Jeoval PO Kiratpur Sahib, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, District Rupnagar have changed my name to Sangeeta Pujani. (CL20073867)

I, Rekha Rani Bansal w/o Tarsem Bansal r/o 8, Ground Floor, Shivalik Avenue, Sector-125, Khadar, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab have changed my name to Rekha Rani. (CL20073933)

I, Rekha Rani alias Rekha Goel w/o Dhaminder Kumar r/o Sajida Colony Malerkotla, Distt. Sangrur, have changed my name to Rekha Jain. (CL20073993)

I, Chander Mohan, s/o Kharaiti Lal Luthra, resident of House No. 27, Prem Nagar, Ambala City, have changed my name and shall hence forth be known as Chander Mohan Luthra for all future purposes. (CL20073949)

I, Pushp Lata w/o Ex. No. 14286369-M Rank Ex. Hav. Suresh Kumar, Village Karar Behar, PO Nehrian, Tehsil - Amb, Distt. Una (HP) in Army documents record mistakenly entered my DoB be corrected as 10.03.1956 instead of 11.11.1957. (CL20073949)

We, Sunil Kansal S/o Jai Narain Kansal and Saroj Kansal W/o Sunil Kansal R/o House No. 933, Sector-80, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab declare that our son Sunil Kansal is out of our control. We therefore disown and debar him from all our moveable / immovable property. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities. We will not be responsible and liable for any of his activities. (CL20073879)

I, Rupinder Singh Syal s/o S. Prital Singh & Preet Mohinder Kaur Syal w/o Rupinder Singh Syal, # 20-A, Street No.1, Dashmesh Nagar, Tripuri, Patiala, declare that our son Ravjot Singh Syal is out of our control. We disown him from all our moveable and immovable property. We shall not be responsible for any of his act and any dealing with him who so ever will do so will be at his/ her own risk. (CL20073827)

We, Sunil Kansal S/o Jai Narain Kansal and Saroj Kansal W/o Sunil Kansal R/o House No. 933, Sector-80, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab declare that our son Sunil Kansal is out of our control. We therefore disown and debar him from all our moveable / immovable property. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities. We will not be responsible and liable for any of his activities. (CL20073879)

I, Geeta Pasricha w/o Anoop Pasricha presently residing at 131-09 101st Avenue, Queens, New York 11419 and my permanent address is N 202 Jaipuria, Sunrise Green, VIP Road, Zirakpur, I, hereby disown and disinherit my daughter Akanksha Singh Pasricha D/o 17 December 1991 is not in my control. I hereby disown and disinherit my daughter Akanksha Singh Pasricha from my moveable and immovable property. Anybody who deals with her shall do so at their own responsibility and I will not be responsible for any act done by her. (CL20073852)

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State bars use of pre-1988 numbers on motor vehicles

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

In a bid to end VIP culture and taking safety considerations into account, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has ordered discontinuation of old registration numbers that are still in use even after the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The Chief Minister has asked the Transport Department to issue alternative valid numbers to owners of vehicles with such numbers, which were already banned in neighbouring states like Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, as per Section 217 read with Section 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Besides promoting VIP culture — as these vehicle owners preferred to retain old registration numbers as a status symbol — the use of old numbers had become a security hazard in the border state of Punjab, an official spokesperson pointed out. Vehicles with these so-called VIP numbers were often misused by anti-social elements to carry out subversive activities as these vehicles were not stopped/checked by the police. Further, with such registration numbers used on multiple vehicles over the years, identification of original owners was difficult since old



UPGRADE TO DIGITAL LICENCE BY JAN 15

The Transport Department has extended the last date for digital driving licence upgradation till January 15, 2021. Transport Minister Razia Sultana said in order to empower people to upgrade their manual driving licences into digital ones, a special campaign had been launched by the department in November

to upgrade their manual driving licences into digital ones, a special campaign had been launched by the department in November 2020. The objective of the campaign is to allow manual driving licence holders to get their driving licence reflected in Sarathi application by submitting online application at www.punjabitransport.org or www.sarathi.parivahan.gov.in.

After approval, the applicant can get his digital driving licence in mParivahan mobile application or Digilocker. "With the launch of the campaign on the Sarathi web application, more than 25,000 people applied for this service. In order to facilitate the public, the last date for availing the service has been extended to January 15, 2021," she added. The minister said the drive would ensure elimination of fake driving licences and help in enforcement of traffic rules leading to safe driving and improved road safety.

15-year-old's murder case cracked, friend arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGHARI SAHIB, DECEMBER 16

The district police claim to have solved the blind murder of a 15-year-old boy who was kidnapped from the outside of his house in Duffehra village recently and was found dead at a sugarcane field of adjoining Ghel village.

The kidnapper had demanded ransom, but Sahil's parents could not contact him as his mobile phone was switched off.

Addressing mediapersons, Fatehgarh Sahib SSP Amneet Kondal said the police cracked the blind murder case within 48 hours. She said after the murder, an SIT led by Jagjit Singh Jallah, SP (Investigation), and Sukhminder Singh Chauhan, DSP Bassi Pathana, was formed, which successfully solved the case.

"During investigation, it was found that Angrej Kumar, one of the close friends of Sahil, was missing from his home. We focused on him and succeeded in tracing him. During interrogation, he confessed to killing Sahil," Kondal said.

She said later, the police recovered two SIM cards, a mobile phone used to make calls to Sahil's parents, the victim's slippers, which the accused had thrown on the roadside in another sugarcane field of Ghel village, and the hammer used to carry out the crime.

On why he killed Sahil, Angrej said he suspected that the former was keeping a close eye on his sister, which was not acceptable to him.

Kondal said the police would seek his police remand and probe if any other person was also involved in the crime.



TWO SIM CARDS, MOBILE PHONE RECOVERED

SSP Amneet Kondal said the police recovered two SIM cards, a mobile phone used to make calls to Sahil's parents, the victim's slippers, which the accused had thrown on the roadside in another sugarcane field of Ghel village, and the hammer used to carry out the crime

Cotton farmers get training in plant protection

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 16

The District Agriculture Department has started training camps to prevent cotton crop from pink bollworm attack. Chief Agricultural Officer Bahadar Singh Sidhu has directed ADOs and other officials working at the block level to conduct training-cum-awareness camps for farmers in villages.

This year, cotton crop in the district had come under pink bollworm attack, causing substantial damage to the crop in some villages.

Sidhu said, "To prevent the crop from a worm attack in the next season and ensure proper management of cotton at mills, a district-level training camp was organised today. We have directed agricultural development officers of respective blocks in the district to further spread awareness among the farmers."

The priests supporting the victim nun have said even though they chose not to come out openly over the issue in Punjab as the calendar was not circulated here, they were certainly unhappy with the decision of the Thrissur Archdiocese.

The priests supporting the victim nun have said even though they chose not to come out openly over the issue in Punjab as the calendar was not circulated here, they were certainly unhappy with the decision of the Thrissur Archdiocese.

The 43-year-old victim nun had served as the Superior General in the Missionaries of the Jesus congregation based in Jalandhar.

"The photograph has been carried at a time when the trial is progressing in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge in Kottayam. The church could have easily avoided glorifying the Bishop at a time when cross-examination in the case is set to start after both the Kerala High Court and Supreme Court rejected his petition for discharge in the rape case. Mulakkal is in Kerala since November owing

to the case," said a priest from a diocesan church.

Another priest supporting the nun said, "Thankfully, there is no practice to print such calendars here. We expect Mulakkal not to come here during Christmas as he is in Kerala and cannot commute here often due to Covid-19."

Mulakkal's photograph along with his birthday date had appeared on the March page of the calendar.

Mulakkal is facing charges under Sections 342 (punishment for wrongful confinement), 377 (unnatural sex), 376 (c)(a) (sexual intercourse by person in authority) 376(2)(k) (indulging in sexual intercourse by exhorting authority) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

Meanwhile, the church defended the move to include the Bishop's birthday in the calendar saying Mulakkal remains a Bishop and that the charges against him have not been proven yet.

In its complaints, the department has alleged that the accused willfully attempted to evade taxes and penalties impossible under Income Tax Act, which was a punishable offence.

On July 29, 2019, the department had concluded the evidence of its officers, namely Amit Dua and Amanpreet Kaur. It also produced certain documents as additional evidence.

In its complaints, the department has alleged that the accused willfully attempted to evade taxes and penalties impossible under Income Tax Act, which was a punishable offence.

At present, 112 patients are

Jor Mela begins



A 'nagar kirtan' being taken out as the three-day Shaheedi Jor Mela begins in Ropar on Wednesday. On the occasion, a large number of devotees thronged Gurdwara Bhatta Sahib to pay obeisance.

Elect Cong chief by consensus: Ashwani

GURDASPUR, DECEMBER 16

Former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar said the Congress did not need organisational polls and it could elect its president by way of consensus after taking various stakeholders into confidence.

He said such elections were always divisive in nature and hence should be avoided.

"Politics is neither about the idea of visceral animosities nor is it a slanging match

resent the spirit of our times. At a time when the party is riddled with dissensions and is facing grim challenges, the question of leadership should be settled by consensus after wide consultations. Organisational elections, as mooted by several party men, tend to divide rather than unite. At this stage, we can rely on the sagacity and political wisdom of Congress president Sonia Gandhi," he said. — TNS

among political rivals. The leader of the Congress, as reminded by French statesman Francois-Rene Chateaubriand, should rep-

resent the spirit of our times. At a time when the party is riddled with dissensions and is facing grim challenges, the question of leadership should be settled by consensus after wide consultations. Organisational elections, as mooted by several party men, tend to divide rather than unite. At this stage, we can rely on the sagacity and political wisdom of Congress president Sonia Gandhi," he said. — TNS

among political rivals. The leader of the Congress, as reminded by French statesman Francois-Rene Chateaubriand, should rep-

Tax case against CM adjourned till December 23

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 16

The case of alleged income tax evasion against Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his son Raninder Singh has been adjourned till December 23.

No proceedings took place in the case as Chief Judicial Magistrate Prabhjot Singh Kaleka was not on duty today. The case was fixed for hearing of the Income Tax Department on the point of summoning.

On July 29, 2019, the department had concluded the evidence of its officers, namely Amit Dua and Amanpreet Kaur. It also produced certain documents as additional evidence.

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New alignments post farmers' stir?

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

SAD (Democratic) leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa today said he had held a few informal meetings with AAP leaders recently. "I did meet the AAP Punjab affairs in charge Jarnail Singh besides the AAP MPs in the Rajya Sabha. But these meetings were informal. I believe there is enough space for a non-Congress, non-Akali Dal political front in Punjab," he told The Tribune.

Jarnail Singh, when contacted, said he had recently met Dhindsa in Delhi. "It's too early to say at this juncture whether there will be any such alliance. Not just the SAD (Democratic), we too are looking for like-minded allies, who want to work for Punjab's betterment," he said.

Jarnail Singh ruled out any alliance with the BSP, saying the two parties had the same vote base. Dhindsa was believed to be inclined towards the BJP when he left the SAD (Badal) in February last. But sensing the strong anti-BJP sentiment in Punjab following the farmers' stir, an astute Dhindsa now seems to have decided to look for allies elsewhere.

Covid claims 18 lives

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Maritime command

Amid Chinese threat, seamless integration will be a challenge

CHINA'S aggressive posturing along the Line of Actual Control and its growing footprint in the Indian Ocean region have prompted India's armed forces to considerably raise their level of preparedness on land, sea and in the air. Last month, the navies of the four Quad nations — the US, India, Japan and Australia — jointly conducted the Malabar military exercise in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. The multilateral show of strength was intended to unnerve China, whose submarine fleet is three times bigger than that of India, and it did somewhat achieve its aim. Now, India is on course to set up an integrated maritime command that will have warships, fighter jets, helicopters, submarines, aircraft carriers and special amphibious brigades of the Army. The maritime theatre commander will be tasked with securing the sea lanes along the 7,500-km coastline.

The long-awaited move comes 19 years after India established its first unified command — the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC). Over the years, the ANC has been plagued by inadequate development of infrastructure, with a slew of environmental and coastal regulatory clearances being a major challenge. The unsavoury tug of war between the services is another stumbling block. The prolonged standoff in Ladakh apparently made the defence top brass look for ways to fast-track plans to strengthen the ANC. These projects should be executed without delay, even as the focus would eventually shift to the proposed maritime command, which is likely to be based in Karnataka. In view of the Andaman & Nicobar experience, infrastructural issues and mandatory clearances should be dealt with on priority so that the command becomes operational in a year or so, as envisaged.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Bipin Rawat, has big plans to integrate the Army, Navy and Air Force while 'retaining the niche capabilities of each service'. Considering the current geostrategic scenario, it's clear that no single service can handle a conflict situation on its own. The key is to make the integration seamless so as to multiply the country's combat potential. The maritime command will serve its purpose only if various forces work as a cohesive unit.

NCR's water woes

Haryana must salvage dried-up ponds

THAT only 25 of the 76 extinct water bodies of Faridabad can be revived — as is clear in Haryana's response to the NGT — underscores the dismal state of affairs. At the same time, it should prompt the Haryana Government into redoubling its efforts to salvage what it can before all is lost. Indeed, the realty boom marked by rampant urbanisation and industrialisation, witnessed by this NCR town in the past few decades, has come at a huge cost of water resources. From an area blessed with abundant ponds, streams, lakes, drains and *bundhs*, it has, sadly, rapidly deteriorated to being marked by the Central Ground Water Board as a dark zone on account of groundwater depletion.

Sailing in the same boat of acute water infrastructure crisis is the other city bordering Delhi in the state: Gurugram. In the last 60 years, as the small town boomed into today's Millennium City, impending doom was lurking behind the all-round greed of 'development'. The alarming decline of 82 per cent in its groundwater table in the last decade and loss of 389 of the 640 water bodies in the last six decades has put Gurugram in the unenviable list of 20 cities that would be left with no groundwater by 2020, as per the Niti Aayog. With natural water bodies lost to mindless concretisation, a monsoon, instead of recharging the groundwater or storing rainwater, results in flooding. The residents are perennially fretting over water woes.

Clearly, there is no scope for further apathy or slip-ups. The key role that water bodies play in the supply of water for domestic needs and agriculture cannot be over-emphasised. And, giving hope that all is not lost are the conservation efforts afoot to restore the ecological glory of the region, such as recycling the waste and reviving the indigenous flora and fauna. The award-winning restoration of the Wazirabad *bundh* by desilting is a shining example of good practices involving civil society-government collaboration. Indeed, water management strategies can succeed only when all stakeholders pitch in. Only then will our pitchers remain filled with water.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right. — MS Swaminathan

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1920

The Madras Ministry.

IT was stated at the conclusion of the Labours of the Southborough Committee that no Provincial ruler in India was more in sympathy with the scheme of Reforms outlined in the Montagu Chelmsford report than Lord Willingdon. We have had frequent occasions to express our disapproval of Lord Willingdon's utterance and of certain measures of his administration, but we believe his statement was, on the whole, correct. In the discharge of his responsibilities as Governor under the Government of India Act also Lord Willingdon has so far shown himself equally anxious to give effect to the underlying spirit of the Reforms. The correspondence between him and Sir P Theagaraya Chetty on the appointment of the first minister shows that the offer to Sir T Chetty was made distinctly on the ground that he was the leader of the party which had won the election, and what is more, just as the Prime Minister in England is expected to submit the names of his colleagues, Sir T Chetty was asked to submit two more names for the two other places in the ministry. On the question whether there are parties with well-marked boundaries in Madras, and whether it can be said with truth that the party of which Sir T Chetty is the head has won the elections, we have no opinion to offer; that is a matter for our countrymen in Madras. But assuredly, where parties in the accepted sense do exist in a Council, and where it can be said with truth that one of these parties has won the election, the duty of the Governor is perfectly clear. It is to do what Lord Willingdon has done. Unfortunately, in many cases, including our own, neither of these conditions can be said to be fulfilled, while in every case the situation has been complicated by the virtual abstention from the elections of one party of which it can be said with truth that it is in a decisive majority in politically-minded India.

Social sweep of farm crisis

Rural labour relying on a sector where too many people are sharing dwindling income



KS CHALAM

ECONOMIST AND FORMER UPSC MEMBER



AT ODDS: The tussle is between corporate farming lobby and farmer groups of Punjab. PTI

THE present crisis in the agriculture sector is manifested in the form of farmers demonstrating on the highways leading to Delhi. It is being interpreted by liberals and radicals differently, depending upon their ideological persuasions. But the issue at hand is not an objective phenomenon, but a concrete experience, present before our eyes to see and empathise. We have seen earlier in different parts of the country, including naked Tamil Nadu *ryots* loitering in Delhi, farmers from Maharashtra taking out a long march to Mumbai and several other groups from the agriculture sector like the turmeric farmers in Telangana and the *mirchi* farmers in Andhra Pradesh who went on strike for days to get their grievances addressed by the government.

The current issue appears to be a tussle between the corporate farming lobby and the so-called independent farmers' groups of Punjab anticipating threats to the farm sector if the three Acts are implemented.

Students of economics are familiar with a statement, "Corn is not high because a rent is paid, but a rent is paid because corn is high." This famous sentence, written by classical economist David Ricardo, and his quarrel with his friend TR Malthus on the possibility of glut and on Corn Laws reminds us of the debate over the economics of agriculture in the classical period. Even Marx and Engels were involved in the Corn Laws controversy in 1842 in England. The industrial bourgeois wanted the laws to be abolished and prices of foodgrains made cheap and the

landed aristocracy wished that the laws continue to benefit from higher prices. The present situation in India reminds of the days of Corn Laws controversy in a different mould. There were two dimensions to the problem. The industrial class looking at the laws to reduce the prices of food so that it would have a positive impact on the wages and the aristocracy wishing for the laws to continue so that the rise in prices of grains would improve their rents. As England was graduating from a feudal to capitalist regime, the industrial lobby prevailed and got the laws repealed by Robert Peel, the PM, in 1849.

It has been argued that the agriculture sector that was protected needs to be freed so that it can grow. It is also said that India being a signatory to WTO is obliged to open up its agriculture sector sooner or later to international competition. The policy-makers were of the opinion that India, with a long history of agriculture, can compete in the international market and reap the benefits of comparative advantage.

The underlying assumption was

that the advanced countries that have been advocating free trade would not protect their agriculture and facilitate free competition. It is shattered now. The story of three decades of liberalisation and the neglect of the agriculture sector has made the government realise its folly when the growth rates have come down. Now, we are thinking of a second Green Revolution with the support of the market and little participation of the stakeholders, without looking at the policies pursued since 1965 on the MSP fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for about 25 agricultural products, particularly wheat and rice, that have had a mixed result. However, the per capita availability of rice per day has marginally increased from 158 gm in 1951 to 189 gm in 2019 while the availability of wheat almost trebled from 66 gm in 1951 to 178 gm in 2019. The strategy appeared to be dissolved since wheat and paddy emerged as hegemonic crops and uprooted indigenous crops like *ragi*, *jowar* etc., mostly consumed by the poor, Adivasis and the indigenous popula-

Find empathy for a new lease of life

RAJESH SHARMA

Ifaced a crisis once when a differently-abled patient tested positive for swine flu and all other patients in the ward demanded that he be shunted out forthwith. We talk much of empathy, but this was a situation when I witnessed self-interest in its stark form.

Thirty years ago, a fatherless man with AIDS was admitted to my care. We tried to sensitise other patients that it was a disease that did not spread by touching or talking to patients. But the adjoining beds remained unoccupied and some even sought discharge.

His mother was his caregiver-in-chief. We told her to use gloves while

cleansing him. But she would not relent. She confided in a nurse that she didn't want any barrier to her caring and would not deny him the motherly touch. Such is the stuff mothers are made up of; nursing the child from the time when the first cries of life are made, sometimes staying awake all through the night. But one day, the nest is empty. Many do make short return visits, but instances abound where children abandon the parents.

I remembered these incidents on learning that in some instances, family members have not bothered to collect the ashes of their parents who succumbed to Covid. In all religions, there are traditions and customs to remember the dead.

The Hindus have a tradition of paying obeisance to the ancestors year after year as a bounden duty.

Human values are not very difficult to maintain in normal times. It is in situations of mental stress and physical distress like the current pandemic that the colours of character go in for a real test on the touchstone of life. We all love life! But do we understand the meaning of love of life?

Some stories of the current pandemic have shaken the very foundations of human and family values. I recently learnt of a son who asked the administration to provide an attendant when his Covid-infected elderly father was advised home isolation. The administration nursed his father back to health once the son aban-

doned him and left for some unknown destination along with his family. Another elderly man had to be kept in the hospital for a long time for the family hesitated to welcome him back into the household. Strange, but all those who have tried to shun or abandon the patients were the children and not the parents!

It is very disconcerting to comprehend a situation where the elderly are left to fend for themselves, not only in life, but even after death; waiting for some Good Samaritan or voluntary agency to perform the last rites. Shouldn't we all ponder whether we are evolving into humans with better social and family values or any such belief is just a farce and self-deception.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Winter session

Apropos of the editorial 'No winter session,' more than the Covid scare, trust deficit between the ruling party and the Opposition is the reason behind skipping it. Given the game of one-upmanship, the acrimony is unlikely to end. In an electoral democracy, people don't decide issues, they decide who will decide the issues. Once decided at the hustings, let the majority lead but it is incumbent on it to take along the others also. To bridge the trust deficit, some model code of conduct to maintain decency and decorum in public discourse needs to be devised for nation-building and public welfare, besides making good the loss of the winter session of Parliament. Let Modi make it *mumkin!*

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKULA

Remembering 1971 war Apropos of 'A victory to remember,' we can never forget the supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. But the points raised are relevant even today. Very few are aware of the heroes of this war because its memories have been overtaken by Kargil, Balakot, Doklam and Galwan. It seems the sacrifices of our armed forces have gone in vain as very little has been done to remember

them. Only a few wreath-laying ceremonies take place on December 16. The year 2021 is going to mark the golden jubilee of the war and there should be year-long celebrations to commemorate the victory.

HARKAWAL JEET KAUR, MOHALI

Settle farmers' issues

There are APMCs in Punjab and Haryana and procurement is done at the MSP. As per the new farm laws, private mandis shall be established which will eventually result in the closure of APMCs and fall of procurement rates below the MSP, though the same may exist on paper as the government claims that the MSP shall continue. This will result in the impoverishment of farmers. They will abandon farming, resulting in large-scale unemployment, and also threaten food security of the nation. Scarcity coupled with hoarding will result in increased prices of food commodities. Considering the nationwide implications, the Centre should shun political obduracy and consider repealing the farm laws, as desired by the farmers.

HARJIT SINGH, MOHALI

Malnutrition among kids

I was shocked to read the news 'Malnutrition in children rises in 5

years'. The FCI godowns are full and still our children are malnourished. Surprisingly, Bihar leads the tally in the stunted growth of children at 42.9%, followed by, of all states, Gujarat (39%) and Karnataka (35.4%). Vibrant Gujarat was the slogan in 2014, and Modi came to power after showcasing the success of the Gujarat model. Nitish Kumar adopted farm reforms almost 15 years ago, and still he is unable to curb malnutrition among the children. What is the use of democracy if our children remain hungry?

ARUN HASTIR, GURDASPUR

Stir hits industry

Industrialists are facing problems due to the farmers' agitation as goods supply chain has been disrupted. They have to cancel orders. Hundreds of factories have been closed in Haryana and Delhi. If this agitation continues for long, it will come as a shock for our economy. Farmers should understand this problem and not block the highways. The movement has deviated from its right path due to the entry of dubious elements.

NARENDER KUMAR, JOGINDER NAGAR

Pranab's memoirs

The news 'Pranab's family spars

over his memoirs' does not come as a surprise. However, it does leave a bad taste as to why he waited till the end, leaving instructions for his daughter to publish the memoirs which contained unsavoury comments about Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, one of our finest PMs. Pranab's comments indicate lack of moral courage on his part. In any case, their veracity will remain suspect. It is now followed by yet another aberration through its publication by his daughter. Understandably, the go-ahead for publication comes across as an act that is motivated.

SPS NARANG, NEW DELHI

Row over GMSH-16

Though it has been denied for now, it is painful to note that the UT Administration wants to hand over GMSH-16 to private players. Rather, they should place it under the PGI. The PGI has to purchase land in far-flung areas for expansion. The private sector is normally beyond the reach of the common man. A majority of our population consists of the poor and the common man. Such a prime site cannot be given to the private sector. The PGI serves the common man.

VS AHLUWALIA, BY MAIL

Policy reform stymied by trust deficit



SATYA MOHANTY

FORMER SECRETARY, GOVT OF INDIA

got a deformed beast as per the dynamics prevailing in a state.

But the manner in which it was piloted raised the ante of the losers. It was pushed through without consultation with the states. A committee of the chief ministers for each of the laws slated for amendment would have thrown up a roadmap as well as a possible palliative, too. Different shades of possibilities would have emerged and so would have possible collateral action. A sequence for change would have been recommended.

Barely out of the pandemic, these changes were rammed through without discussion. There was no reference to the select committee of Parliament for scrutinising the Acts or hardly any discussion in Parliament to understand the implication in action. Either it was presumed that what is technically good on paper will be accepted without demur or the grand design required saving time and breath.

The agitating farmers are, perhaps, big farmers or the so-called *kulaks* who have appropriated the benefit of MSP over decades, spurred by the unsustainable subsidy of water, electricity and fertiliser and have grown crops and varieties for which the consumers don't have much demand. The chain goes on because of a top-down PDS and the presence of the FCI. But the farmers are finally going to be losers if the open-ended MSP operation is curtailed.

Policy reform requires knowing the winners and losers. Only the government has the mandate to mediate conflicts and interests. Unfortunately, the opportunity for understanding them was lost in the rush and, thereafter, it was more of a celebration or grandstanding than doing things to establish bona fides.

When the policy is good for agriculture, why are Punjab's farmers agitating as if their lifeline is gone? It looks surreal that the government says it is game-changing and pro-farmer, but the farmers don't see it that way. They also don't believe in government assurances and continue with their maximalist position. They want both: liberalisation of marketing and MSP.

It is possible that the other set of losers, like the arthiyas and politicians, are supporting them. May be, the Opposition parties are also backing them. It is in conformity with the nature of a democracy. Any chance at a dip into the asymmetrical advantage emerging from the weakness of the messaging of a policy is expected to be capitalised by the adver-



The farmers are finally going to be losers if the open-ended MSP operation is curtailed. Policy reform requires knowing the winners and losers. Only the government has the mandate to mediate conflicts and interests. Unfortunately, the opportunity for understanding them was lost in the rush and, thereafter, it was more of grandstanding than doing things to establish bona fides.

RAMMED THROUGH: Farm reforms were set in motion without consultation with the states, leading to the farmers' agitation. PTI

DEHLI dur ast' is the complacency of the powerful as much as the belligerent call to action of 'Delhi Chalo' by the seemingly disenfranchised. In between the two is the luminal space of politics, deliberation, consultations and arguments which mark democracy on the one hand and, in turn, mute a thousand small mutinies on the other. What we see now is Punjab's farmers laying siege to the city's borders, an inelegant metaphor of the failure of democratic politics itself.

The cause of action is the set of farm policies, which were the crying need, as the incumbent government showed resoluteness in bringing them in while others did not touch them with a barge pole.

Meanwhile, the procurement has swelled to an unworkable 92 million tonnes against the requirement of 41 million tonnes of buffer stocks. There is now double the quantity stipulated.

But the problem is in the context rather than the text. The text was fine, the context technically sound and benignly advisable, but it missed out the context of deliberation, consultation and the give-and-take for any policy to succeed.

It is true that some items were more under the states' purview than under the Central government. Left to the states, it would not have happened for the next 10 years and we would have

sarial political players. Losers do not twiddle their thumb either. They fight with their back to the wall to reverse it or to cut their losses. Nothing surprising about it. What is surprising is how inadequate was the preparation for tackling these possibilities.

The agitating farmers are not the losers alone. They have a canny sense of improving their bets. They are also beneficiaries of this convolution in the system of MSP which focused on a few crops, a few states and relatively fewer farmers. It might have worked against the interests of farmers elsewhere.

They also have an earthy sense of what all is happening around. Governments often rob Paul to pay Peter,

much against the 'Robin Hoodism' of robbing Peter to do the opposite. The stealth, lack of discussion and audacity without an alternative system make them suspect that it is being done for ulterior motives to help the cronies. It also does not help that some cronies have started developing warehouses in large tracts of land close by ahead of time. They suspect insidious designs and insider trading. This may be completely wrong, but the trappings certainly make them wary of the new policies as unadulterated do-gooders.

The worrisome point now is: will the negotiated settlement lead to going back on the policy changes proposed or substantially attenuating them? Politicians know compromise well enough to stick their neck out beyond a point. That will be a setback to the sector by decades because politicians learn their lessons quickly: once bitten, twice shy.

That will be a great disservice to the sector compared to the not-so-hurried but deliberative evolution of a policy. It was such a simple thing, almost the grammar of democracy. Missing out at the right time would be costly, like the absurd incident in Eugene Ionesco's play where a piece of equipment does not work all along, leading to much dialogue and contestation. It was so because the wire was not connected to the plug point to begin with. Is it the absurdity of disconnection?

Schism in global community on defining terror



LUV PURI

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

PAYING homage to the security personnel who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on Parliament on December 13, 2001, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu said last week that India had again pitched to have a UN convention that will define terrorism and its forms. The 2001 attack, allegedly carried out by Jaish-e-Mohammad, a terrorist outfit based in south-western part of Pakistan's Punjab province, had brought nuclear powers India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

Since its 31st session (1976-77), the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has been debating the issue of defining terrorism under various modalities and procedures. Since 1996, the UNGA has been recommending the establishment of "a working group with a view to finalising the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations."

This year, the annual process culminated on November 19 with the adoption of the resolution which includes the part related to the formation of a working group. The same process is likely to be repeated next year.

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the US left its imprint on the multilateral body's architecture and discourse on counter-terrorism (CT).

The UN Security Council Resolution 1373, passed on September 28, 2001, provided a new lens and frame-



AMBIGUOUS STAND: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation says it is vital to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate rights of people to resist foreign occupation. REUTERS

work for future discussions and formulations in the CT realm. The resolution had normative and actionable steps that member states were expected to undertake to combat terrorism. There were a series of other resolutions that followed in the next two decades, depending on situational demands and developments. However, the definition of terrorism that all 193 members of the UNGA will adopt into their own criminal law eluded the international community.

Beyond the diplomatic niceties, at a practical level, there are serious conceptual differences among member states about the definition of terror-

ism. A working group was established by the Sixth Committee, the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly, including the "draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism". The conceptual differences are far from resolved. In 2015, this writer was a witness to the UNGA negotiating process. Every year, the member states make their ritualistic statements as they list their national positions on the issue of defining terrorism. For instance, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), a broadly religious grouping that includes 53 Muslim-majority

countries, has taken the stand that it is "vital to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate rights of people to resist foreign occupation, a distinction duly observed in international law." The US has objected to this position as it fears that this would call into question its 21st-century operations in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2020, the differences seem to have further widened and become convoluted as geopolitical rivalries have coloured the negotiating process. In October, the ongoing US-China and Iran-US cold war dictated the discourse. Drawing attention to China's recent actions in Xinjiang province, the US stressed that governments must not use counter-terrorism measures as a pretext for stifling human rights or fundamental freedoms, such as the freedom of religion. In turn, China urged against "the use of double standards and interference in the affairs of other countries under the guise of combating terrorism". The US called Iran "the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism, and its numerous terrorist proxies and partners, including Hezbollah". The US hoped the UN would play a constructive role in efforts against Iran's support for terrorism.

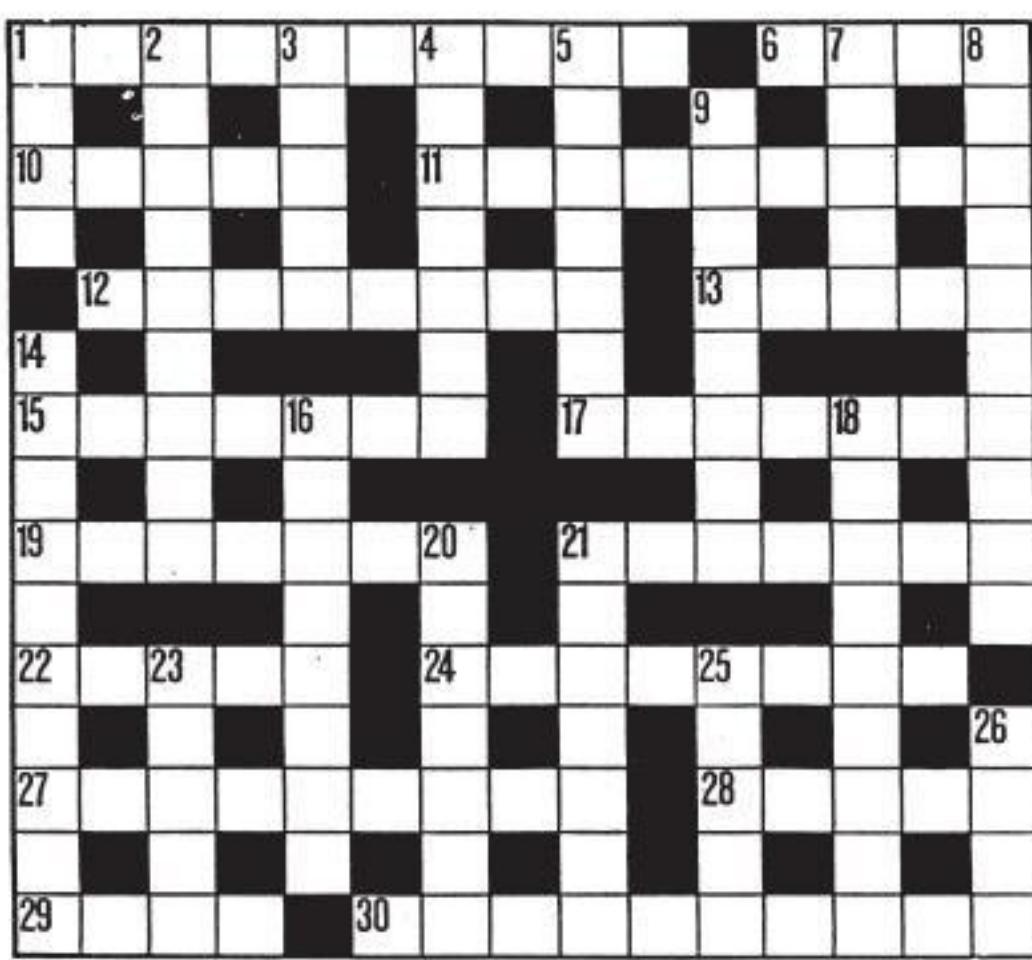
Iran objected to the "unilateral preparation of lists accusing states of allegedly supporting terrorism and called for the Security Council sanction committees to streamline their listing and delisting procedures." There are 14 ongoing sanction regimes

which focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation, and counter-terrorism.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, speaking for the OIC, underscored the rejection of blaming Muslim minorities during the pandemic for local transmission of the virus. Israel underlined the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would adopt a zero tolerance approach to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and that no cause or grievance could or should ever justify or excuse terrorism.

In the light of past experience and deep-seated differences among member states, the expectations that the process to define terrorism will end soon need to be tempered with realism. Meanwhile, CT challenges such as online radicalisation are becoming more and more complicated. Even with some interventions such as hiring moderators, filtration mechanisms of tech giants such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter in curbing hate speech are increasingly proving to be far from adequate. The situation requires greater policy collaboration among member states on how to meet this challenge. There are various international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism through the legislative processes of the UNGA and the Security Council. However, enhanced accountability and coherence on the issue of counter-terrorism call for an agreement on what constitutes terrorism in the first place.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Antipathy (10)
- 6 Gaming counter (4)
- 10 Knock to the ground (5)
- 11 Strengthen (9)
- 12 Rejoinder (8)
- 13 Fashion (5)
- 15 Elope (3,4)
- 17 Drivel (7)
- 19 A kind (7)
- 21 Found on the high seas (7)
- 22 Fix immovably (5)
- 24 Lineage (8)
- 27 Making progress (2,3,4)
- 28 To express (5)
- 29 Be moodily silent (4)
- 30 Fatal epidemic disease (10)

DOWN

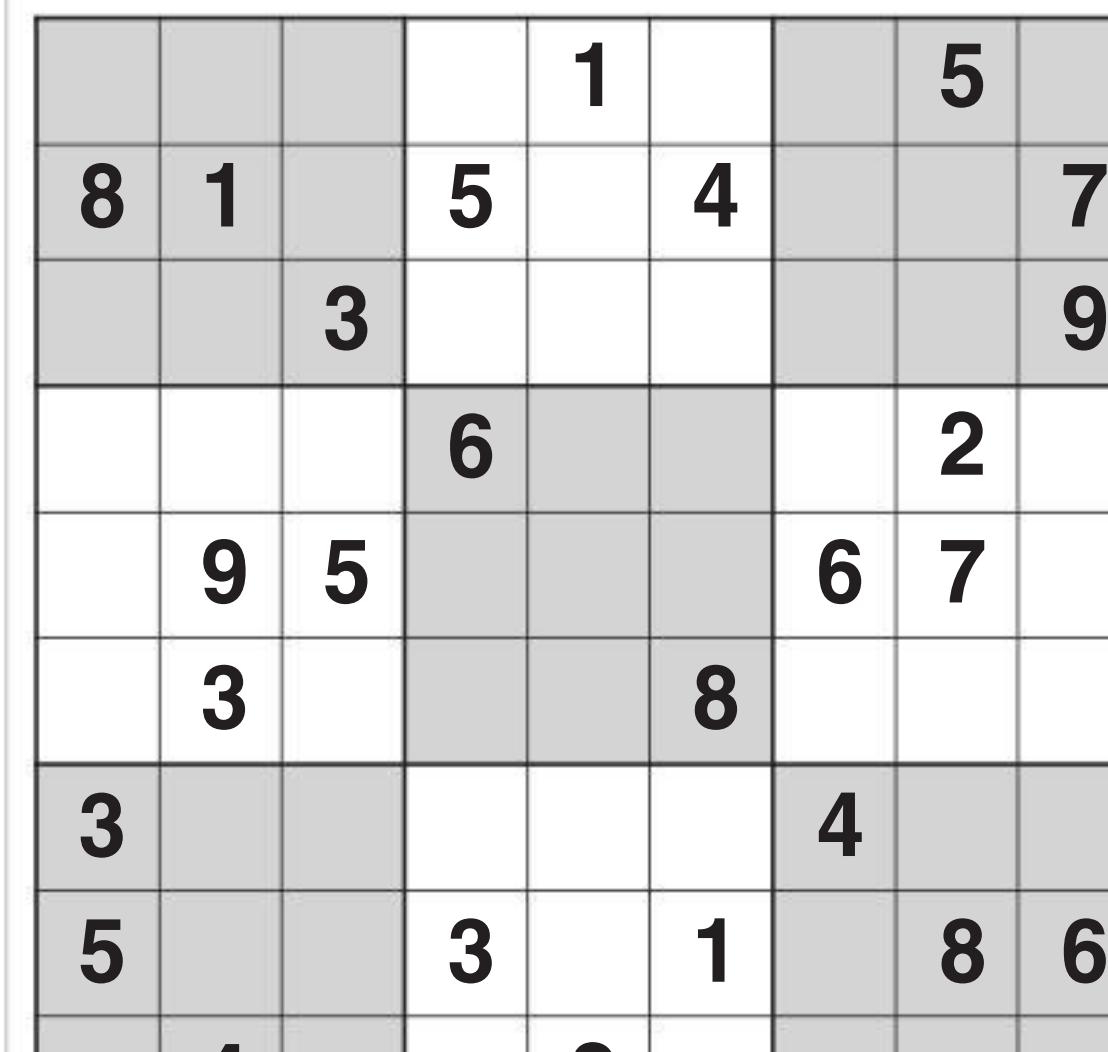
- 1 Widespread (4)
- 2 Utter formally (9)
- 3 Eat greedily (5)
- 4 Previously (7)
- 5 Open-air team game (7)
- 7 Robust (5)
- 8 Priority (10)
- 9 Behind the scenes (8)
- 14 Rank-and-file members (5,5)
- 16 American painter and etcher (8)
- 18 Yellow-flowered weed (9)
- 20 Be inclined to thin (7)
- 21 Something left over (7)
- 23 Full of life (5)
- 25 Auctioneer's hammer (5)
- 26 To honour lavishly (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Reproof, 5 Fling, 8 On the ball, 9 Sin, 10 Yoga, 12 Unstable, 14 Cobweb, 15 Flatly, 17 Ungainly, 18 Lyre, 21 Ski, 22 At an angle, 24 Light, 25 Extinct.

Down: 1 Roomy, 2 Pit, 3 Obey, 4 Flaut, 5 Full tilt, 6 Itsy-bitsy, 7 Gunnery, 11 Go begging, 13 Hesitant, 14 Counsel, 16 Cleave, 19 Erect, 20 Want, 23 Gin.

SU DO KU



V. HARD

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 17, 2020, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Margshirsh Shaka	26
■ Posh Parvishtha	3
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 3, up to 3.18 pm	
■ Dhruva Yoga up to 4:03 pm	
■ Ultrashadha Nakshatra up to 7.13 pm	
■ Moon in Capricorn sign	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 17:24 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 07:15 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	18	05
New Delhi	18	05
Amritsar	16	02
Bathinda	17	02
Jalandhar	18	03
Ludhiana	18	04
Bhiwani	22	05
Hisar	20	04
Sirsia	20	04
Dharamsala	13	03
Manali	11	-01
Shimla	14	03
Srinagar	12	-06
Jammu	18	05
Kargil	-09	-18
Leh	-13	-20
Dehradun	21	05
Mussorie	15	04

TEMPERATURE IN °C

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DERA BASSI NOTICE INVITING TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)	
E-tender MC Dera Bassi 12/2020 Dated:	Municipal Council, Dera Bassi
Name of Work	Works amounting to Rs. 1659.91 Lacs
Cost of Work/Earnest Money	Separate for each work
Date of Opening of Bid	07.01.2021
For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting tender please see https://eproc.punjab.gov.in and HelpLine No: 01762-280028, 281028. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.	Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Dera Bassi.
DPR/Pb/118567	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY FIRST CORRIGENDUM	
First Corrigendum to Notice No. 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 23-Elect/2020-21 dated 23.11.2020 For TENDER NO. 251-Elect-T-20-2020-21.	Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G.
Northern Railway, Firozpur has invited above Tender Notice for Tender No. 251-Elect-T-20-2020-21. The tender Notice published in leading newspapers on 25.11.2020 to be opened on 17.12.2020. The Tender No. 251-Elect-T-20-2020-21 may be treated as cancelled. 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 25-Elect/2020-21 Dated 16.12.2020. 2803/2020	Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G.
	Serving Customers With A Smile

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. PI(E)P/20-21/07 Phone No. 0172-2756469

Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against Tender No. 1-14 from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on https://eprocure.gov.in/procure/app/

Sr. No.	Equipment/Item Name	Quantity	EMD	Bid Submission Date	Bid Opening Date	Dept.: Name
Non Pre Bid Cases						
1.	Sudo Scan	01 No.	40,000/-	14.01.2021	15.01.2021	Endocrinology
2.	Pharmaceutical Kits	As Per technical specification	88,000/-	-do-	-do-	Nuclear Medicine
3.	Laser for Maxillofacial Surgery for Head and Neck Surgery	01 No.	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	OHSC
4.	High Definition Video Bronchoscopy System with image recording	01 No.	60,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics
5.	Fibre Optic Nasal Endoscope	01 No.	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	Plastic Surgery
6.	Dental Software	01 No.	30,000/-	16.01.2021	18.01.2021	OHSC
7.	Adult advanced cardiac life support(ACLS)-Management trainer	01 No.	20,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pulmonary Medicine
8.	Scaling Unit with Endo Tips	10 Nos.	20,000/-	-do-	-do-	OHSC
9.	Vision and Stereocuity testing instruments	As Per technical specification	20,000/-	-do-	-do-	AEC
10.	Real Time PCR Consumables	As Per technical specification	23,600/-	-do-	-do-	Biomedical HUB
Pre Bid Cases						
11.	Fully Automated Individual (FDINAT) Testing System-01 No. along with rates of reagents for 75000 tests per year with expected 10% escalation each year and Rates will be frozen for next 10 years	01 No.	5,50,000/-	18.01.2021	19.01.2021	BTD
12.	Infant Lung Function Testing System	01 No.	1,40,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics
13.	Inhaled Nitric Oxide System	01 No.	80,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics
14.	Whole Body Cooling System	02 No.	80,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics

Tender List can also be downloaded from website www.pgimer.edu.in and can be applied on website www.eprocure.gov.in. Cost of Tender fee is Rs. 200/- (non refundable) which can be deposited in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be in the form of FDR/TDR valid for a period of one year from any scheduled bank in the name of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. In any other form will not be accepted. Tender fee and EMD should be submitted at the Procurement Branch (Import) latest by 2:30 p.m. on or before the date of opening of bid mentioned against respective item. The tenders shall be opened on the next date after 3:00 p.m. in the presence of the authorized intending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form shall be rejected.

The designated names therein right to accept or reject or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. PRE-BID CONFERENCE WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 11 to 14 shall be held on 23.12.2020 from 03:00 p.m. onwards in the (PIEP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH. The intending bidders are free to join Pre bid Conference through video conference. For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).

NOTE-1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form.

NOTE-2. If any tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.

Additional Terms and Conditions.
1. All the bidders are required to furnish a Certificate as per newly introduced rule 144(X) of GFR-2017.
2. As per rule 150 of GFR-2017 all bidders are required to provide their GeM registration Id. Without this Id Supply Order will not be issued even after being L-1.

DI-16163

PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)

IN THE COURT OF CALA-CUM-S.D.O. (C), PAONTA, DISTRICT SIRMAUR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the land mentioned in the below noted schedule, situated in village Ashyari, Shillai, Bandli, and Drabil Tehsil Shillai/Sub Tehsil Ronhat, District Sirmaur, has been vested in the Central Government, free from all incumbrances, for construction/widening etc. of NH-72B (New-707) (Paonta-Gumma Section), from the date of publication of Notification, under section 3D, in the Official Gazette i.e. on 15-05-2020. In pursuance of section 3G (3) of the National Highway Act, 1956, it is hereby informed to all concerned right holders that claim for compensation in respect to schedule published under section 3D of the ibid Act. Now, therefore, compensation of the land, payable to the owners/interested persons, is to be determined by the undersigned. Hence, all the interested persons are hereby informed to appear personally or by an agent or by legal practitioner to submit their claims regarding compensation in my office at Paonta or in the office of the Tehsildar, Shillai and Sub Tehsil Office, Ronhat, up to 28-12-2020 days from the publication of this Public Notice., failing which the compensation will be determined and announced, as per the norms fixed by the Government, on 30th December, 2020, in Tehsil Office Shillai.

SCHEDULE

State: HIMACHAL PRADESH		District: Sirmaur			
Sr. No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land owner/ Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluka Shillai					
1.	1352/1196/1	Private	Agriculture land	0.0126	Total 2 shares, Jalmu etc.
Village Ashyari					
1.	6226/759/2/1	Private	Non agriculture land	0.1180	Mustarka Jamula Malkan
2.	6351/6/137/718/1	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0500	Total 5 shares, Shupa Ram etc.
3.	6250/735	Private	Non agriculture land	0.2402	Total 40 Shares, Bali Ram etc.
4.	5088/734	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0168	Chandnu, Sia Ram s/o Ruldu equal share.
Village Bandli					
1.	2297/370/1	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0074	All the right holders of Shamlat patti Bandli as per Jamabandi
2.	2291/378/1	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0054	All the right holders of Shamlat patti Bandli as per Jamabandi
3.	2340/510/2	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0590	All the right holders of Shamlat patti Bandli as per Jamabandi
Village Drabil					
1.	1311/870/2	Private	Non agriculture land	0.3077	Shamlat
2.	1313/871/1	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0843	Shamlat
3.	1305/866	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0126	Total 5322648 shares Lagnu etc.
4.	1307/867	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0084	Total 9312 shares Jyoti Ram etc.
5.	1309/868	Private	Non agriculture land	0.2192	Shamlat
6.	869	Private	Non agriculture land	0.0843	Shamlat
7.	1287/312/1	Private	Non agriculture land	0.1096	Shamlat
Issued under my signature and seal of the court on this 15th day of December, 2020.					
CALA-cum-S.D.O. (C), Paonta Sahib, Distt Sirmaur, H.P.					

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 16

The proposal of the state government to amend Town and Country Planning (TCP) rules to give relaxations to private constructions in the height of the buildings and number of floors could open up a Pandora's box as it could amount to violation of various court orders.

The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department yesterday notified the amendments to para 28 of the TCP Rules 2014. One-month time has been given for anyone to give suggestions or make objections to the proposed rules to be called Himachal Pradesh Town and Country Planning (Seventh Amendments) Rules 2020. The proposal will entitle private constructions to get relaxations, in the backdrop of several court directives restricting construction activity in most urban areas of the state.

Urban Development (UD) and Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Suresh Bhardwaj had last week hinted that the state government would soon approach the High Court so as to give relief

Amendments notified

- The TCP Department on Tuesday notified the amendments.
- One-month time has been given for giving suggestions or making objections
- The proposal will entitle private constructions to get relaxations

to people from the National Green Tribunal restrictions on the number of floors in buildings in planning areas across the state.

As per the draft rules, relaxation in set backs, height of floors and buildings in case of private constructions may be allowed by the competent authority, keeping in mind the site conditions. In case of private projects, having plot area more than one hectare, relaxation will be allowed by the state government only.

Sources said a similar provision had been made for government construction projects in public interest but now extending this concession to private constructions would amount to giving undue benefit in violation of the court orders

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER (TEMPLE)-CUM-DC KANGRA
at Dharamshala. (01892-222705) kangrateemple@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed bids in two bid format are hereby invited by the undersigned on the prescribed format from the eligible and reputed companies/firms desirous of seeking permission in regard to live telecast of Arties, 24x7, on outsources basis on internet, mobile, DTH, TV Channels, websites and other broadcast platforms for a period of Five years (extendable for another period of five years) in the following temples of the district Kangra.

1. Sri Jawalamukhi Temple, Jawalamukhi.
2. Sri Bahreshwardevi Temple, Kangra.
3. Sri Chamunda Nandikeshwar Temple, Chamunda.

The tender form along with the detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from this office (Room No. 114) during working hours on cash payments (non-refundable) of Rs. 25,000.00/- (Rs. Twenty Five Thousand Only) each or can be downloaded from our website: hkangra.nic.in which shall be accompanied with DD of Rs. 25,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Five Thousand Only) in favour of the undersigned and should reach latest by 15.01.2021 up to 1:00 p.m. which shall be opened on same day at 3:00 p.m.

Sd/- (Rakesh Kumar Prajapati, IAS), Commissioner Temple-cum-DC Kangra, H.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chandigarh Administration has adopted the CPWD rules for enlistment of contractors in Engineering Department, U.T., and Chandigarh. The applications are hereby invited for enlistment of contractors i.e infrastructure for Class I (tendering limit of Rs. 40.00 Crore) and class IV (tendering limit of Rs. 1.3 Crores). Enlistment criteria, application form and the relevant documents required for enlistment shall be as per the rules for enlistment of contractors in CPWD 2020 dated 17.8.2020. Applicants are requested to apply for enlistment after going through these rules on CPWD website. The applicants shall have to pay online non-refundable processing fees of Rs. 30,000/- for Class I and Rs. 5000/- for Class IV in the favour of Executive Engineer, C.P. Division No. 1 and Chandigarh through RTGS in SBI A/c No. 38663774707 (IFSC Code SBIN000628).

Over 57 per cent voting in 7th phase

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16
The seventh phase of voting for the District Development Council (DDC) elections concluded peacefully across the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir today, as the process recorded 57.22 percent of voting.

According to election officials in the UT, the Jammu region recorded 71.93 per cent of voting, while the



Kashmir valley witnessed a 39.52 per cent of voter turnout in this phase.

It was reported that the highest polling percentage of 80.12 per cent was recorded in Poonch, The lowest was reported in south Kashmir's Shopian district, at 6.55 per cent. Jammu, the winter capital, witnessed 68.66 per cent polling.

In Kashmir valley, the highest polling percentage was reported from north Kashmir's Bandipora, which recorded a 70.47 per



Voters stand in a queue to cast their vote for the DDC poll at Suchetgarh village on Wednesday. PTI

FINAL PHASE TO BE HELD ON DEC 19; RESULTS TO BE DECLARED ON DEC 22

Overall turnout so far	71.93%	39.52%
Jammu division		Kashmir division
Highest voter turnout: 80.12% in Poonch		
Lowest voter turnout: 6.55% in Shopian		

A total of 298 candidates were in the fray of whom 148, including 34 women, were in Kashmir division; and 150, including 34 women, in Jammu division

cent voter turnout in what is the penultimate phase of the DDC polls.

The areas of Baramulla and Kupwara reported 59.53

per cent and 59.23 per cent polling, respectively while volatile areas of south Kashmir like Kulgam and Pulwama reported 17.98 per

cent and 11.06 per cent polling, respectively.

It is to be noted here that the ongoing electoral exercise is the first democratic event

FROM PAGE 1

Cong walks out...

He walked out after he reportedly was not allowed to raise the said matter.

"Politicians should have no business to tell the armed forces which uniform to wear. This is their jurisdiction. We should not insult them. Political leadership should provide heated tents, better equipment and logistics to the soldiers who are braving this winter at the border and

facing the Chinese in Ladakh," Gandhi said in the presence of Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat.

BJP's Rajya Sabha MP from Haryana Lt Gen (retd) DP Vats countered Gandhi over "the presentation being a waste of time". "It becomes very embarrassing sometimes when a Lieutenant General is addressed as a Lieutenant," he said.

The sub-judges whose serv-

ices have been placed under suspension are Tanvir Singh and Pradeep Singh. The sessions judges against whom regular inquiry has been ordered are Haryana-cadre judicial officer RK Sondhi and Punjab-cadre officer Tejwinder Singh. A preliminary inquiry is believed to have been earlier ordered by the HC against Kathua case Judge Tejwinder Singh.

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All weather stations in the Valley recorded the sub-zero

night temperature owing to the clear sky and the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the normal for this part of the season, they said.

they do not have in any other country and that is a fact.

■ PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti has made allegations of not being allowed to campaign freely?

The allegations are completely baseless. I also have security and there are many places where I am not allowed to go. Mehbooba is looking for ways to explain her defeat. I think she knows they have lost the elections.

■ You called your opponents 'Gupkar Gang'. Why?

When so many parties get together to gang up against us then what should we call them? They are a gang of corrupt dynasts, which is why they are a gang. They have just got together to save their wealth, they have nothing to do with the people.

■ What is the final assessment of your performance?

In the Valley, where we did not have even a single seat in the Assembly, whatever we get we will consider it as the blessing of the people. *Is baar Kashmir ghati mein kamal khila ke dikhayenge* (I am confident that Lotus will bloom in the Valley).

A. That statement was incomplete. I said it in Parliament in 2000 that there was no better country for Indian Muslims than India or a better friend than Hindus.

Today let me add to it, they also have no better leader than Narendra Modi. The rights they enjoy in India

The Tribune INTERVIEW: SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN, DDC POLL IN-CHARGE

Development, not Art 370, on UT electorate's mind



“Is baar Kashmir ghati mein kamal khila ke dikhayenge (I am confident that Lotus will bloom in the Valley).”

since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs on August 5, 2019.

Polling is being conducted in eight phases since November 28. The final phase will be held across the region on December 19, with the results to be declared on December 22.

In the UT, there are a total of 280 constituencies, 14 in each district, of which, voting was conducted across 31 constituencies in this phase, including 13 from the Kashmir division and 18 from the Jammu division.

In the seventh phase, a total of 298 candidates were in the electoral fray. People here want 'jamhooriyat' (democracy). Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpeyi had talked of 'Insaniyat', 'Jamhooriyat' and 'Kashmiriyat'. Without 'jamhooriyat' there can neither be 'insaniyat' or 'Kashmiriyat'.

Our aim is to make J&K dynasty and corruption free and ensure democracy here.

■ What was the feedback on Article 370?

Neither they talked about it nor did I. Kashmiris know that they enjoy the same rights as Shahnawaz does as a

Srinagar freezes at minus 4.8° Celsius

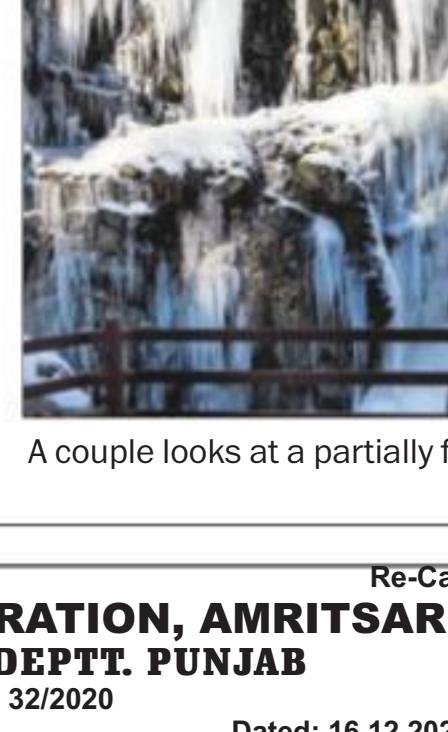
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 16

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, experienced the coldest night of the season on Wednesday as the Valley reeled under cold conditions with the mercury plummeting several degrees below the freezing point owing to a clear sky, Met officials said.

All weather stations in the Valley recorded the sub-zero

night temperature owing to the clear sky and the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the normal for this part of the season, they said.

The officials said Srinagar recorded a low of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 3.2 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature was about four degrees. — PTI



A couple looks at a partially frozen waterfall at Tangmarg. PTI

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AMRITSAR, LOCAL GOVT. DEPTT. PUNJAB

NIT No. 32/2020

Re-Call

Dated: 16.12.2020

The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar invites tenders on Online Two bid system from eligible bidders, Firms/Agencies/General Contractors and Co-op Societies etc for development works.

- Last Date of submission 31.12.2020 till 12.00 noon and Opening of Technical Bid: 31.12.2020 at 03.00 PM.
- EMD: 2% of Estimated Amount for Firms/Agencies/General Contractors etc.
- For further specification terms & Conditions, Kindly visit: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- Name of work/Corrigendum/Addendum and Amendment shall be published in the above said website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Civil), Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF POWER (ENERGY BRANCH)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF CHAIRPERSON IN PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Chairperson in Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Chandigarh. For details, login to www.punjab.gov.in, www.pserc.gov.in, www.pspcl.in and www.psrc.org last date of receipt of applications is 20th January, 2021 till 2.00 p.m.

DPR/Pb/118589

Punjab Mandi Board

Punjab Mandi Bhawan Sector-65, S.A.S. Nagar

Email:- pmb.xenmoh2@punjab.gov.in

E Tendering Notice No. 29 (2020) Dated: 15.12.2020

Secure Online Submission of Tenders

Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, SAS Nagar invites Bids from the eligible bidders registered with Punjab Mandi Board for Link Roads Re-Routing Programme 2020-21 Phase-3 Market Committee Banur & Derabas Distt. SAS Nagar.

For detailed terms and conditions of Notice inviting bids, refer to website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Civil), Punjab Mandi Board, S.A.S. Nagar.

H. P. GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SHIMLA-171001

No. HFW(GDC)B(12)17/98 Vol-VI-20

NOTICE

As decided in the Counseling Committee meeting which was held on 25-11-2020 for the admission of Dental Mechanic and Dental Hygienist Course, Applications are invited for filling-up the left-out vacant seats of Dental Mechanic and Dental Hygienist diploma course from the eligible candidates who fulfil the eligibility criteria of the prospectus for admission to Diploma Courses in Dental Hygienists, Dental Mechanics in H.P., Government Dental College & Hospital, Shimla-1, Bhojia Dental College & Hospital, (Bhud) Baddi (Pvt), Dist. Solan, Himachal Dental College & Hospital, (Pvt) Sundernagar, Dist. Mandi and Himachal Institute of Dental Sciences (Pvt), Paonta Sahib, Dist. Sirmour (State/Management Quota seats) in Himachal Pradesh for the academic session 2020-21.

Education Qualification:
The candidate must have passed 10+2 Examination from H.P. Board of School Education with Science subject (i.e.) Physics, Chemistry and Biology with minimum 40% marks for General Category candidates and 35% marks in case of SC/ST/OBC Categories provided that the candidate has qualified the subject of English as an elective subject in the above examination. Selection will be made on 10+2 Examination merit basis.

METHOD FOR APPLYING

For complete details including eligibility criteria and other information, please download the Prospectus AND Application Form on the website of H. P. Government Dental College & Hospital, Shimla. Website: www.hpgdshimla.org. The candidate may read the provisions of prospectus carefully.

METHOD OF FEE PAYMENT:

The application forms be submitted (in original) complete in all respects either by hand or by registered/speed post in the office of the Principal, H.P. Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Shimla-1. The fee of prospectus amounting to Rs. 500/- for General Category Rs. 400/- for SC/ST/OBC/IRDP/BPL categories should be deposited through online in SBI account link mentioned on the website of the institution as STATE BANK COLLECT---ONLINE---Himachal Pradesh--- Education institution -Principal, HP Govt. Dental College and Hospital Shimla on or before 31-12-2020(up-to 5:00PM) where after no application shall be accepted. The walking counseling for the same will be held on 7-1-2021 in the Conference Hall of H.P. Govt. Dental College, Shimla.

PRINCIPAL,
H.P.GOV. DENTAL COLLEGE,
AND HOSPITAL SHIMLA-1

DPR/HP/5067

Principal Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Govt. Medical College & Hospital Chamba, H.P.

Phone: 01899223956, 01899223959, Fax: 01899223958

Website: [https://www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

Email: gmcchamba@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Dated: 15.12.2020

Tender Ref. No. GMC/CBA/Actn/Tender/Purchase/20

E- Tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their established, reputed and experienced authorized dealer/representatives for the procurement of machinery and equipment for the departments of ENT, Radiology, Anaesthesia and general surgery in Pt. JLNGMCH Chamba. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: [https://www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in) from 15.12.2020 to 11.01.2021 up to 11:00 A.M. The Last date and time for submission & uploading of filled in tender documents is 11.01.2021 at 11:00 AM. The Tender will be opened on 11.01.2021 at 11:30 A.M. Duly completed tender form along with cost of tender document Rs. 500/- (five hundred only) and Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 2, 50,000/- (two lakh fifty thousand only) by way of DD/FDR duly pledged in favour of Principal Pt. JLNGMCH & Chamba along with other required documents should be uploaded on the website [https://www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in) or before the date of opening of the tenders. All subsequent corrigenda, modifications and clarifications in respect of tender will be published only on aforesaid website. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid website regularly. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tender offers at any time without assigning any reason.

Principal,

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Govt. Medical College,

Chamba, District Chamba, (H.P.)

e-mail: gmcchamba@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tenders

for Procurement of Machinery and Equipment

for the Departments of ENT, Radiology, Anaesthesia and General Surgery

in Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Govt. Medical College & Hospital Chamba, H.P.

for the Academic Session 2020-21

NOTICE FOR E-TENDERING

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

Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion
C/o Check Dam on Thehra Nallah & Providing Lift Irrigation Scheme to village Ghurkhal in Tehsil Jawalamukhi Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- C/o Over Head Delivery tank of 15000 litres capacity with 10.00 mtrs staging height)	660000/-	13200/-	Three months

Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering :- 23.12.2020 up to 11.00 A.M. The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hphip.org

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Dehra.

DPR/HP/5078

ਭੂਮੀ ਅਤੇ ਜਲ ਸੰਭਾਲ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ**ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਨਿਟਸ**

1 ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੰ:- DSWC/DSCO/JALANDHAR/02/2020-2021 ਭੂਮੀ ਅਤੇ ਜਲ ਸੰਭਾਲ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਨਿਟਸ	ਅਤੇ ਜਲ ਸੰਭਾਲ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਨਿਟਸ
ਅਤੇ ਜਲ ਸੰਭਾਲ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਨਿਟਸ	22.12.2020 ਸਵੇਰੇ 11.10 ਵਜੇ

ਵੇਖਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਟ ਵੇਬਸਾਈਟ <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਨੂੰ ਦੇਖਣ। ਨੋਟ: ਸੇਕਰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸੰਭਾਲ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਤੋਂ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਪੋਰਟ ਤੋਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਮੀਂ/ - ਮੰਡਲ ਭੂਮੀ ਗੈਰੀ ਮੈਨੇਜਿੰਗ ਅਤੇ ਸੱਤੰਗ
0181-22342422

DPR/Pb/118604 ਈ-ਮੇਲ: dsc.dswc.jalandhar@punjab.gov.in

**OFFICE OF ADGP TECHNICAL SERVICES, PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH
Punjab Police Headquarters, Sector 9A,
Chandigarh - 160009**

Advertisement regarding Notice Inviting e-Tender
ADGP Technical Services, Punjab, Chandigarh intends to float a Tender on 17.12.2020 which will be uploaded on <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (e-procurement portal of Punjab Government) for the procurement of Smart Phone Secure with MDM (Mobile Device Management).

For any queries, please Contact Sh. Tarvinder Singh, PPS, Dy. SP/Modernization/Technical Services, Punjab, Chandigarh with office no. 0172-2748100-06 Extn. 2124 or Mobile No. 9417632475 between 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on any working day.

In case of any amendment in the Tender document corrigendum will be uploaded on <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (e-procurement portal of Punjab Government), Punjab Police website <http://www.punjabpolice.gov.in> and Punjab Government website punjab.gov.in. prospective bidders are advised to regularly check the website mentioned above.

Sd/- (DSP/Mod/TS)
for Inspector General of Police-cum-Chairman,
Tender Committee, TS, Punjab, Chandigarh.

DPR/Pb/118622

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

For and on behalf of Governor of Punjab, The Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 2, Patiala invites bids from eligible bidders for the name of work detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for the following works on website <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work	Bids Security	Bids Processing Fee (Rs.)	Period of Com- pletion
1	2	3	4	5	9
1	Providing Operational Improvement for improved Water Supply Service level of Water Supply Scheme Udham Singh Nagar Galoli, Block-Patran, Distt. Patiala under sub-component 2(a) of Punjab Rural Water & Sanitation Sector Improvement Project and Jal Jiwan Mission.	Rs. 514985/-	Rs. 10300/-	As per website	4 months

Availability of Bidding documents on website From Date 18.12.2020 to Date 28.12.2020 (17:00 Hrs.)

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids Online Date 28.12.2020 (17:00 Hrs.)

Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bids Online Date 29.12.2020 (10:00 Hrs.)

For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sd/- Chairman GPWSC,
Village Udham Singh Nagar Galoli,
Block Patran, District Patiala,
O/o Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Div No. 2, Patiala.
Pin Code — 147101
Email: xenrws_pta@yahoo.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**Department of Water Supply & Sanitation Punjab****Tender Notice Inviting Online Bids**

For and on behalf of Governor of Punjab The Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation, Division No. 2, Patiala invites bids from eligible bidders for the name of work detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for the following works on website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Approx. Value of work	Bids Security	Bids Processing Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	9
1.	PROVIDING IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER THROUGH HOUSEHOLD CONNECTIONS IN EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME BISHANPURA BLOCK SAMANA DISTRICT PATIALA UNDER SUB-COMPONENT 2(a) OF PUNJAB RURAL WATER & SANITATION SECTOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND JAL JIWAN MISSION	Rs. 474187/-	Rs. 9500/-	As per Website	4 Months

Availability of Bidding documents on website From Date 18.12.2020 to Date 28.12.2020 (17:00 Hrs.)

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids Online Date 28.12.2020 (17:00 Hrs.)

Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bids Online Date 29.12.2020 (11:00 Hrs.)

For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Notice Inviting bids refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sd/- Chairman GPWSC,
Village BISHANPURA,
BLOCK SAMANA DISTRICT Patiala.
O/o Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Div. No. 2, Patiala.
Pincode: - 147 101
E-mail: xenrws_pta@yahoo.co.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT****E-Procurement Notice****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Ghumarwin, Distt. Bilaspur, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractor registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No. Name of Work Estim- ated Cost Starting date for downlo- ading Bid Earnest Money Deadline for sub- mission of Bid Time Limit

1	Construction of Swami Vivekanand Government Degree College Ghumarwin Distt. Bilaspur (SH:- Construction of Balance work of two No's Class rooms of commerce Block) (Deposit work)	Rs. 1131522/-	05/01/2021	Rs. 23000/-	20/01/2021	Six Month
2	Construction of Dehra Kot Kangri Dasmal road (SH:- Construction of C.C. Pavement from 0/985 to 1/195, 2/425 to 2/515, 3/345 to 3/425, 3/475 to 3/500) OTMPN	Rs. 802349/-	05/01/2021	Rs. 17000/-	20/01/2021	Two Month
3	C/o Play ground (Develop of sports facility/ground at Govt College Ghumarwin Distt. Bilaspur)	Rs. 2311890/-	05/01/2021	Rs. 42200/-	20/01/2021	Six months

The bidder are advised to note other detail of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Executive Engineer,
Ghumarwin Divn.,
HPPWD, Ghumarwin.

DPR/HPP/118617

Af-Taliban delegation in Pak to push peace talks

ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 16

A high-level Afghan-Taliban delegation arrived here on Wednesday to hold talks with the top Pakistani leadership as part of efforts to push forward the reconciliation process amid growing incidents of violence in Afghanistan. The Taliban Political Commission (TPC), headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, is on a December 16-18 visit to Pakistan, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

"During the visit, the delegation will meet the Foreign Minister and call on the Prime Minister," the FO said.

The visit comes after a delegation, led by US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, met Pakistan's Army chief General

Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed with him the ongoing Afghan peace process.

Baradar and his delegation were summoned to Islamabad from

Qatar, where they have been negotiating since September with Afghan government representatives, officials close to the talks said.

The delegation will discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular, problems of refugees and issues faced by Afghan traders.

delegation will discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular, problems of refugees, relaxation and facilitation of Afghan's movement to Pakistan, as well as issues faced by Afghan traders.

The visit of the TPC delegation is part of Pakistan's pol-

icy to reach out to key Afghan parties in the peace process with a view to facilitating the Intra-Afghan Negotiations that commenced in Doha on September 12, 2020. It is the second visit of the TPC delegation this year after it visited Pakistan in August. — PTI



Biden picks ex-mayor as Transport Secretary

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 16

US President-elect Joe Biden has chosen Pete Buttigieg to be his Transportation Secretary, elevating the former mayor of Indiana and a one-time rival to a top post in his Cabinet.

The first openly gay major presidential candidate in American history, and one of the youngest-ever to win a state primary or caucus, Buttigieg, 38, is a barrier-breaking public servant from the industrial Midwest with a track record of trailblazing, forward-thinking executive leadership.

Buttigieg vaulted to national prominence due to his success in revitalising his hometown of South Bend, Indiana. First elected at the age of 29, Buttigieg worked inclusively and creatively to bring together public, private, and community leaders to restore pride to South Bend and turn the city — once called one of America's "dying cities" — into a bustling hub of innovation and job growth.

"Buttigieg is a patriot and a



IT'S TIME TO EMPOWER AMERICANS: BUTTIGIEG

problem-solver. I am nominating him for Secretary of Transportation because this position stands at the nexus of so many of the interlocking challenges and opportunities ahead of us," Biden said.

"I trust Mayor Pete to lead this work with focus, decency, and a bold vision — he will bring people together," he said. — PTI

Indian-American Chari among 3 on SpaceX mission

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 16

Indian-American US Air Force Colonel Raja Chari has been selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the European Space Agency. Chari, 43, will serve as the commander, while NASA's Tom Marshburn will be pilot and ESA's Matthias Maurer will serve as a mission specialist for the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the ISS, which is expected to launch next year.

A fourth crew member will be added at a later date, following a review by NASA and its international partners. NASA said in a statement on Monday. "Excited and honoured to be training with @astro_mattias and @AstroMarshburn in prep for a trip to the @Space_Station," Chari said in a tweet. This will be the first space-flight for Chari.

India kick off trophy defence in tough D/N challenge

ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 16
Virat Kohli and his "fearless" team would look to make a good beginning against an Australian team that is seeking revenge in their Test series, which begins with the Day/Night match here tomorrow. India currently hold the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which they won in 2018-19 after beating Australia 2-1 on their home turf. India's task is much tougher now, with captain Kohli set to return home after the first Test.

Kohli's eggs for the series are all in one basket, the Adelaide Test — he would leave for India on paternity leave after this game, handing over the team's reins to Ajinkya Rahane. The stakes are high: If Kohli performs well with the bat and as captain, he could potentially set the tone for the rest of the series; if he doesn't do well and India are beaten, it would be doubly difficult for the team to fight back in his absence.

Apart from Kohli's magnif-

Fight night



On the eve of the series, Virat Kohli and Steve Smith sat down for a happy conversation about past contests.

ROCKSTAR VS ROCKSTAR

Kohli

1604 Runs against Australia in 34 innings, average 48.6

7 Centuries against Australia, and 6 of them in Australia

53.18 Scoring rate vs Australia for his 1604 runs

ience, this series promises more of Steve Smith's manic consistency, Cheteshwar Pujara's doggedness, the

Smith

1429 Runs against India in 20 innings, average 84.05

7 Centuries against India, with 3 of them scored in India

56.01 Scoring rate vs India for his 1429 runs

eagerness of the young Marcus Labuschagne, and the fast bowling of Pat Cummins, Jasprit Bumrah, Mitchell

India in Australia: Last 6 series

Series	Tests	Won	Lost	Draw	Winner
2018/19	4	2	1	1	Ind
2014/15	4	0	2	2	Aus
2011/12	4	0	4	0	Aus
2007/08	4	1	2	1	Aus
2003/04	4	1	1	2	Draw
1999-2000	3	0	3	0	Aus

Overall, India have played 12 series in Australia and won 1, lost 7 and drawn 4 of them.

India vs Australia: Test Results

	Tests	Won	Lost	Draw/Tie
IN AUS	48	7	29	12
IN IND	50	21	13	15/1
OVERALL	98	28	42	27/1

1ST TEST: INDIA VS AUSTRALIA SONY SIX 9:30AM

Shubman hasn't got opportunities at this level yet in Test cricket, so as and when he gets an opportunity it will be great to see how he goes about things, because he is a very, very confident young man... Prithvi has performed at the Test level, but he will be playing in Australia for the first time. So, I think it is very exciting to see his progress as well. Virat Kohli

Shaw in, no Gill

Never has an Indian team been so spoilt for choices with multiple options in place for various positions. On Test eve, Kohli exercised his options, naming Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin and Prithvi Shaw in the XI, which means that Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja won't figure in the match. KL Rahul won't be playing, and Umesh Yadav will be the third seamer. Kohli would hope that he has made the right choices so that Rahane can help India do an encore once Kohli flies back to India. — TNS, agencies

India XI

Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (captain), Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha (wicketkeeper), Ravichan-

dran Ashwin, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah
Australia squad
Tim Paine (captain & wicket-keeper), Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green,

Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade

We value our Employees... We care for our Pensioner NORTHERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTER DIVISION

PENSION ADALAT

ON 29.12.2020

Through Video Conferencing

Pension Adalat will be held on 29.12.2020 from 11 AM to 1 PM through video conferencing.

Pensioners retired from HQ's Office of Northern Railway may send their grievances to Dy.CPO/HQ, Northern Railway, Baroda House by mail on the below mentioned Email ID.

Settlementqhb33@gmail.com

Last date of receiving the application is 21.12.2020

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION BY MAIL ONLY.

The pensioners can also join the Pension Adalat on

29.12.2020 from 11 AM to 1 PM

through the Link given below:

<http://meetingsapac33.webex.com/meet/pr1708354445>



No unnecessary tension: Kohli

This year has also made people realise a lot of things that might not have been necessary in the past, where you hold grudges or you have unnecessary tension between teams or individuals, is absolutely pointless... Everyone is just grateful for the opportunity to be back on the field. It's not like the games haven't been as intense or as competitive, it's just the unnecessary stuff that has been filtered out and I feel like there's much more respect between the sides. You're still going to be professional and make sure you're positive and aggressive in your body language and the way you go about things on the field.

There's going to be tension, there's going to be stress, there's going to be emotions flaring now and then. But I don't foresee anything getting personal any more. And all of us getting smarter and a few more years into our careers, so we're going to make better choices. Virat Kohli

My personality represents new India: Kohli

ADELAIDE: Virat Kohli today declared that he's a "representation of new India" — and not "the most Australian non-Australian cricketer of all time", as former Australian captain Greg Chappell called him a few days ago. Kohli today was asked about his aggressive cricket and fighting attitude, which reminded Chappell of the attitude of Australian

cricketers. "I would like to say that I have always been myself," Kohli said in a virtual media conference. "The way my personality and character is, I am the representation of new India. For me, that's how I look at it. In my mind, it's not (about) being compared to the Australian mindset as such. It's how we have started to stand up as the Indian cricket team and my personality has been like this from day one" he added. The new India, according to Kohli, is not afraid to take up challenges. "The new India takes up challenges and is filled with optimism and positivity. We make sure that we are ready for any challenges that come our way," he said. AGENCIES



After in-depth deliberations, the Indian Parliament has given legal shape to farm reforms. These reforms have not only removed many barriers for farmers, but also provided new rights and new opportunities to them.

Government is committed to protect the interest of farmers

Modi Government is with the Farmers

- Record increase in Foodgrain production from 265.05 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 296.65 million tonnes in 2019-20.
- Unprecedented increase in budget allocation - six times increase i.e. Rs. 1,34,399 crore in 2020-21 as compared to Rs. 21,933 crore in 2013-14.
- Historical increase in Minimum Support Price - System of fixing MSP at one and a half times of the production cost in notified agricultural commodities from 2018-19 onwards.
- Payment of MSP to farmers - Procurement at MSP in 2019-20 increased by two and a half times in the MSP value as compared to 2013-14.
- Soil Health Card distributed to 22.57 crore farmers in two phases.
- Transfer of Rs. 95,979 crore to farmers' accounts under PM Kisan Yojana and 10.59 crore farmer families benefitted.
- Neem coated Urea improved soil health and resulted in better productivity.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Per Drop More Crop - since inception of the scheme in 2015-16, an additional 50.1 lakh hectare area covered under micro irrigation.
- Promotion of Organic Farming in the country through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- 1,000 markets integrated in e-NAM platform.
- 6.6 crore applicant farmers benefitted from Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- Institutional agricultural credit increased to Rs. 13.92 lakh crore in 2019-20, which is Rs. 6.62 lakh crore more as compared to 2013-14.

Myths are being spread among the farmers about the Farm Reforms Acts, the reality is -



MSP is being given and will be continued



Government Mandi system will be continued. New Acts will encourage Mandis to provide better services to the farmers

Farmers can now sell their produce to anyone, anywhere and earn more profits

Farmers will remain owners of their land. Sale, lease and mortgage of land is prohibited under the Act

The Government is taking various steps for the welfare of farmers

Provision of Agricultural Infrastructure Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure in rural areas. This will create employment opportunities in rural areas.

Setting-up of 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) with 100% Central Assistance. One FPO will be established in every block of the country with a budget provision of Rs. 6,850 crore.

Provision of Rs. 500 crore to promote Honey Production and Entrepreneurship.

Digital Agri Stack for providing digital services to the farmers through the Universal Farmers Service Interface.

Kisan Credit Card Saturation Drive - A total of 1.60 crore Kisan Credit Cards issued in the last six months and a credit limit of Rs. 1,45,966 crore sanctioned.

davp 011017/30047/2021

कार्यालय : जिला निवार्चन अधिकारी (पंचायत) मण्डी (हि.प्र.)

निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना

अनुभवी आपूर्तिकर्ता फॉन्स से निम्न बुद्धि अनुसार निवार्चन समझी हेतु निवादा एं सोलरबैंड लिफाको में आमंत्रण की जाती है।

Sr. No.	Name of Item	Qty.
1	RO Metal Seal	316
2	PO Metal Seal	783
3	Arrow Cross Mark Seal (double side)	1540
4	Distinguish Mark Seal	2206
5	Pusher	820
6	Metal Rule	906
7	Cup for setting indelible Ink	990
8	Canvas Bag 35" x 14" x 12"	2193
9	Needle	1107
10	Blade	3271
11	Match Box	3300
12	Flexible wire 6"	19700 pcs.
13	Gunny bag	3300
14	NOTA stamp	470

1. निवादा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 21.12.2020 है।

2. निवादा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 22.12.2020 को प्राप्त हो वह दिन तक निवार्चन समझी हो सकती है।

अधिकारी को शेष मु. 500/- रु. में कार्यालय अधिकारी के कार्यालय में प्राप्त हो वह दिन तक निवार्चन समझी हो सकती है।

टैक्ट :- उत्तराधिकारी को प्राप्त मासमान करने से साथ तथा समस्त सामग्री प्रदान करने से सम्मत है।

सहायक जिला निवार्चन अधिकारी (पंचायत) मण्डी, जिला मण्डी, (हि.प्र.)

दिनांक : 16.12.2020

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Government of India

Website : www.agricoop.nic.in

Kisan Call Centre

1800-180-1551

Kisan Call Centre

1800-180-1551

AgriGol

SC notice to Centre on PILs for uniform divorce rules, alimony

Bench headed by CJI says court issuing notice with 'great caution'

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine "with great caution" if there could be uniform grounds for divorce and uniform maintenance and alimony for all citizens, irrespective of the religion they followed.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde issued notice to the Centre on two separate PILs filed by BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay — one seeking uniform grounds for divorce and the other demanding uniform maintenance and alimony for all citizens across India — after senior advocates Pinky Anand and Meenakshi Arora argued that the top court needed to intervene.

"How can we remove dis-

Issue likely to trigger debate on uniform civil code, a BJP poll promise



criminatory practices without interfering in personal laws? Are you asking us to abolish personal laws?" asked the CJI at the very outset.

"In Shayara Bano (triple talaq case) you did it. Under Article 142 you had said directions given will exist till law was brought in. You have intervened in the past, Lordships," Anand pointed out.

As the CJI said the prayer regarding asking the Law Commission to examine it can be considered, Arora said, "For two years we have no one heading the Law Commission. We want a similar relief. If we look at certain provisions of Muslim law then maintenance can go on only for the period of Biddat. Women are left with nothing."

"When religious customs violate fundamental right to equality and non-discrimination, the court must

step in to protect women's rights," she submitted.

The Bench said, "We are issuing notice with great caution." The issue is likely to trigger a fresh debate on uniform civil code, a BJP poll promise.

Upadhyay's first PIL sought a direction to the government to take appropriate steps to remove anomalies in the grounds of divorce and make them uniform for all citizens without prejudice on the basis of religion, race, cast, sex or place of birth.

He demanded the top court should declare that the discriminatory grounds of divorce violated citizens' right to equality, right to non-discrimination and right to live with human dignity and go on to frame guidelines for "uniform grounds of divorce" for all citizens.

US Cong passes Bill, denounces China's aggression in Ladakh

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 16

The US Congress has officially passed the USD 740 billion Defence Policy Bill, which among other things include calling out Chinese aggression against India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The US House of Representatives and the Senate on Tuesday passed the National Defense Authorisation Act (NDAA), which included key components of Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's resolution language urging the Chinese government to end its military aggression against India along the LAC.

China and India have been locked in a military standoff

Chatterjee is UN Resident Coordinator in China

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed senior UN official Siddharth Chatterjee of India as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China. Resident Coordinators are the UN Secretary-General's representatives for development at the country level. PTI

Desecration of Mahatma's statue appalling: WH

Washington: White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany has described as "appalling" the desecration of Mahatma Gandhi's statue outside the Indian Embassy here and said his reputation should be respected, especially in the US capital. PTI

along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May this year.

The House and Senate versions of the Bill were reconciled by a bipartisan Congressional conference committee earlier this month.

The inclusion of this pro-

vision, which Krishnamoorthi led as an amendment when the Bill passed the House, reflects the US government's strong support for its allies and partners like India in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. — PTI

Mental health top productivity disruptor: Survey

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

The risk level to the global workforce has reached its highest since 2016 with infectious diseases and mental health challenges perceived to be among the top factors that will cause productivity declines through 2021.

Findings from a unique worldwide survey of workforce risk assessment by International SOS, a health security services firm with several Fortune 500 companies among clients, say 79 per cent of the risk professionals interviewed globally felt travel risks had increased considerably through 2020 with

spillover effects expected to last well into 2021.

The outlook reveals findings from business resilience trends survey of over 1,400 risk professionals across 99 countries, including India. The survey was done by

Ipsos MORI, a research firm. Most risk professionals — 91 per cent of those surveyed — said infectious disease (Covid-19, malaria, dengue, Ebola and Zika) will cause a decrease in employee productivity in the next year.

Risk Outlook 2021 cites

operational challenges for organisations through next year with 54% of risk professionals mentioning need for adequate resources to deal with Covid-19

Survey shows how organisations need to redefine duty of care protocols around Covid

Findings from a worldwide survey of workforce risk assessment by International SOS, a health security services firm, say 79% of risk professionals feel travel risks increased in 2020

Risk Outlook 2021 cites

One in three respondents anticipated mental health to contribute to decline in productivity. This rises to 43 per cent among risk professionals, who work with students and faculty.

One in three respondents anticipated mental health to contribute to decline in productivity. This rises to 43 per cent among risk professionals, who work with students and faculty.

"Workforce resilience experts, however, predict that mental health will overtake Covid-19 next year as the top contributor to productivity fall," findings state listing the following top five risks for the global workforce in 2021 — eco-political turbulence causing civil unrest and crimes; pandemic-borne crisis management; growing infodemic; mental health and risk blind spots due to singular focus on Covid.

Half of the risk professionals interviewed online

50th anniv celebrations of 1971 victory



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lights the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial in New Delhi, marking the beginning of the 50th anniversary year celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the birth of Bangladesh. PTI

Cadets motivate youth to join armed forces

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

A motivational talk on joining the armed forces by cadets from Punjab's two training institutes for aspirants was conducted today during the Children's "Samvad" as a prelude to the forthcoming Military Literature Festival, 2020.

"However, the Indian Army is fully prepared to beat any challenge during winter," he said at the Fort William here on the occasion of Vijay Diwas.

He said post the Galwan valley incident, bonhomie and mutual trust on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China evaporated and it would take time for things to stabilise and rebuild.

"There have been no intrusions or major face-offs in the area of responsibility of Eastern Command since the Ladakh stand-off between Indian troops and China's PLA.

He said the PLA carried out rapid infrastructure development activities of roads and tracks, and of defences along the Sikkim border and in Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh.

"We are taking reciprocal actions and prepared to meet emerging challenges... They have tried to develop some kind of model villages next to the border areas, where they are looking to settle nomadic Tibetan population," Lt Gen Chauhan said. — PTI

The cadets spoke about their aspirations and reasons for choosing the armed forces as a career. They also highlighted the way of life at the institutes. — TNS

MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Kolkata: Ending weeks of speculations, TMC heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari resigned as an MLA of the state assembly on Wednesday further fuelling the theory of him switching over to the saffron camp. Adhikari, who has resigned from the state cabinet last month, submitted his resignation to the Assembly secretary. PTI

Bitting cold grips region
New Delhi: Cold wave and dense fog are sweeping plains of northwest India as temperatures continue to drop over the region with many parts of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab recording season's lowest temperatures so far. At 2°C degrees Celsius, Amritsar was the coldest followed by Ganganagar (2.4°C) and Narnaul (3.4°C).

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HP.PWD, Gohar on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rates, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the undermentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Time limit
1.	Construction of Indoor Sports Stadium in Govt. Degree College Basa (Gohar) Distt. Mandi, H.P. (SH:- C/o Building, W.S and S.I., Septic Tank and rain water Harvesting Tank system)	5,70,65,790/-	6,04,000	5000/-	Class-A	Eighteen Months
2.	Construction of Atal Ardash Vidyalaya at Gohar (Gudahri) in Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi, H.P. (SH:- Construction of School building, W.S and S.I., Septic Tank and rain water Harvesting Tank system and site development)	10,46,64,899/-	10,80,000	5000/-	Class-A	Two years
3.	Construction of Atal Ardash Vidyalaya at Gohar (Gudahri) in Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi, H.P. (SH:- Construction of Girls Hostel building, W.S and S.I., Septic Tank and rain water Harvesting Tank system)	4,18,68,662/-	4,52,000	5000/-	Class-A	Eighteen Months
4.	Construction of Atal Ardash Vidyalaya at Gohar (Gudahri) in Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi, H.P. (SH:- Construction of Boys Hostel building, W.S and S.I., Septic Tank and rain water Harvesting Tank system)	4,25,92,720/-	4,59,000	5000/-	Class-A	Eighteen Months
5.	Construction 25.00 mtr. Span Jeepable Bridge over Ghangalkhad at Jawal G.P. Jawal (SH:- C/o Sub Structure and Super Structure)	64,28,302/-	97,000	2000/-	Class-C	One Year
6.	Construction of 25.00 mtr. Span Jeepable Bridge over Jeunkihad at Ropha in G.P. Nandi Lot (SH:- C/o Sub Structure and Super Structure i/c Approaches)	72,31,858/-	1,05,000	2000/-	Class-C	One Year
7.	Construction of 40.00 mtr. Jeepable Bridge over Jeunkihad at Ropha in G.P. Nandi Lot (SH:- C/o Sub Structure and Super Structure)	85,42,307/-	1,18,000	2000/-	Class-B	One Year
8.	Construction of Science Lab in Govt. Sen. Sec. School at Faqwas, Tehsil Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH:- Construction of Building Portion, W.S & S.I. & Rain Water Harvesting Tank and site development)	98,50,550/-	1,32,000	2000/-	Class-B	One Year
9.	Construction of Science Lab in Govt. Sen. Sec. School at Dhanyara, Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH:- Construction of Building Portion, W.S & S.I. & Rain Water Harvesting Tank and site development).	99,05,910/-	1,32,000/-	2000/-	Class-B	One Year

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hpptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hpptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

- 1. Date of publication 15.02.2021, 17.00 HRS
- 2. Document Download Start and End Date 15.02.2020, 17.00 HRS to 03.03.2021, 17.00 HRS.
- 3. Bid Submission Start and End Date 15.02.2020 at 17.30 HRS up to 03.03.2021, 17.00 HRS.
- 4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document 04.03.2021 up to 11.00 HRS
- 5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid 04.03.2021, 11.30 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

- The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
 - i) Cover 1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".
 - ii) Cover 2: Shall contain "BoQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
- 5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HPPWD, Gohar as specified in Key dates No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
- 6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 04.03.2021 at 11.30 HRS in the Office Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HPPWD, Gohar. In their interest the tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- 7. The bids for the works shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- 8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond his control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tenders.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HPPWD, Gohar.

BRIEFLY

Kerala local body polls: Ruling LDF set for sweep Thiruvananthapuram: The ruling CPI(M)-led LDF in Kerala on Wednesday appeared set for a sweep in the local body polls in the state, while the BJP seemed to have made some gains, leading in Pandalam, the centre of protests against women's entry into Sabarimala, among others. The Left Democratic Front was leading in 514 of the 941 gram panchayats, five of the six city corporations and 11 of the 14 district panchayats, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. PTI

Team found no need to ban Bajrang Dal: FB India head New Delhi: Facebook's India head Ajit Mohan deposed before a parliamentary panel on Wednesday and suggested that the social media company's fact-checking team has so far found no such element that necessitates a ban on the Bajrang Dal, sources said. He was questioned about a recent Wall Street Journal report suggesting that the social media giant is reluctant on banning Bajrang Dal. PTI



Adhikari resigns as TMC MLA, may switch to saffron party Kolkata: Ending weeks of speculations, TMC heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari resigned as an MLA of the state assembly on Wednesday further fuelling the theory of him switching over to the saffron camp. Adhikari, who has resigned from the state cabinet last month, submitted his resignation to the Assembly secretary. PTI

Bitting cold grips region New Delhi: Cold wave and dense fog are sweeping plains of northwest India as temperatures continue to drop over the region with many parts of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab recording season's lowest temperatures so far. At 2°C degrees Celsius, Amritsar was the coldest followed by Ganganagar (2.4°C) and Narnaul (3.4°C).

AIMIM to fight UP Assembly elections

LUCKNOW: Buoyed by his party's showing in the Bihar Assembly polls, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday announced his party's intention to fight the next state elections in Uttar Pradesh as part of a front led by Om Prakash Rajbhar, a former BJP ally. "We are now part of Rajbhar's morcha," he said after meeting the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief here. In the recent Bihar elections, Owaisi's Ail India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen won five seats out of the 20 it contested in the Seemanchal region bordering West Bengal. PTI

PM meets UK Foreign Secy, discusses roadmap for ties

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE