

COVID, ECONOMY PRIORITIES
FOR BIDEN, HARRIS WORLD

CCI ORDERS PROBE AGAINST GOOGLE FOR
UNFAIR PRACTICES BUSINESS

BIHAR SET FOR D-DAY AMID
'WINDS OF CHANGE' BACK PAGE



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

6-yr jail for bursting firecrackers in NCR

NGT ban also applies to other cities with 'poor' air quality | To remain in force till Nov 30

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9
Amid resurgence of Covid-19 and high pollution levels, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) today banned the sale and bursting of firecrackers in the Delhi-NCR region till November 30.

A Bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, said the order would apply to all cities and towns where air quality in November last year was in 'poor' and above categories.

In cities/towns where air quality was "moderate" or below, only green crackers should be sold and timings for bursting these should be restricted to two hours during festivals as may be specified by the state concerned, it said.



Vehicles ply on roads amid low visibility due to heavy smog in New Delhi on Monday. MUKESH AGGARWAL

₹1 LAKH FINE

in addition to imprisonment ranging from 1.5 to 6 years

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said action would be taken against those violating the ban under the Air (Prevention and Control

of Pollution) Act, which invites a jail term up to six years and a fine up to Rs 1 lakh. The newly-appointed Commission for Air Quality

Management for NCR and adjoining areas too stressed the need to strictly enforce laws to cut pollution. The directions may bring some

HIGH POLLUTION, COVID SURGE BEHIND MOVE

- High pollution levels in Delhi-NCR region and resurgence of Covid forced the NGT to ban sale and bursting of firecrackers
- It has told all states/UTs to initiate steps to contain air pollution in view of the potential aggravation of Covid-19
- The region battles severe pollution every year due to farm fires, vehicular pollution and construction activities
- The temperature this year dropped early, which made the matters worse

respite to residents struggling with smog with meteorologists expecting no help on the weather front.

EDIT: FIRECRACKER BAN

To cut losses, Delhi wholesalers dump stocks in Punjab

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 9

Following the NGT ban, Delhi-based firecracker dealers are dumping their stocks in Punjab. The wholesalers in Punjab are reportedly being offered heavy discount, in addition to the doorstep delivery for bulk orders. The prices of branded crackers have already dipped by over 20 per cent.

A Delhi-based wholesaler said they were eyeing states where firecrackers had not been banned. "We have to clear our stocks to cut losses," he said. Meanwhile, the air quality in Punjab has dipped from "moderate" to "poor" in the last two weeks following high number of farm fire incidents. INSIDE

Pfizer vaccine '90% effective' in ph-3 trial

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

2-DOSE SCHEDULE

BNT162b2 reported protection from Covid on seventh day after the second dose and 28 days after initiation of the vaccination (1st dose)

50 MILLION

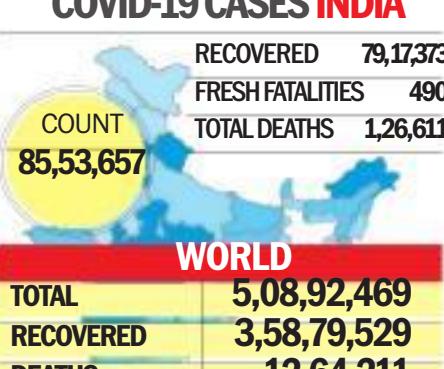
doses likely to be produced in 2020; production may touch 1.3 billion doses in 2021



SPUTNIK UPDATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Sputnik V manufacturers on Monday said all updates on the Russian vaccine's launch would be shared across all social media platforms — Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

COVID-19 CASES INDIA



WORLD

TOTAL	5,08,92,469
RECOVERED	3,58,79,529
DEATHS	12,64,211

HC refuses interim bail to Arnab

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 9

The Bombay High Court on Monday refused to grant interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and two others in a 2018 case of abetment to suicide, and said the accused have the remedy of seeking bail from the Sessions Court concerned.

Rejecting the interim bail pleas of Goswami and two

DIRECTIVE TO CHANNELS

Hearing a plea by Bollywood producers, the Delhi HC has asked AGR Outlier Media and Bennett Coleman to ensure that no defamatory content is displayed on their channels (Republic TV and Times Now).

others, the Division Bench of Justices SS Shinde and MS Karnik said, "No case

has been made out for us (court) to exercise our extraordinary jurisdiction."

The HC said, "The petitioners have an alternative and efficacious remedy of seeking bail before the Sessions Court concerned. We have already noted earlier that if such bail plea is filed, the Sessions Court shall decide the same in four days." — PTI

Days before Diwali, Hry air 'hazardous'

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Likely to deteriorate further, 11 cities record AQI between 411 & 484

THE WORST AFFECTED

VARANASI FARIDABAD SONEPAT
MANESAR ROHTAK
DHARUHERA BHIWANI
GURUGRAM FATEHABAD
BAHDURGARH HISAR | JIND

STATE TO COMPLY WITH NGT BAN ON CRACKERS: SOURCES

wind speed, Regional Officer, Pollution Control Board, Smita Kanodia said the situation would improve only with rainfall or if the wind speed increased. Stubble burning worsened the situation too, she added.

Meanwhile, sources said the Haryana Government would have to comply with the NGT order on cracker ban. In a flip-flop, the state had announced a 2-hour relaxation in the ban yesterday after completely banning crackers on November 6.



CENTRAL MINISTERS TO MEET FARMERS

A two-member ministerial delegation of the Union Govt has agreed to meet farmer leaders on November 13 to find a way to end the impasse over farm laws. Farmer leaders, however, said they had not received any letter in this regard. INSIDE

SENSEX HITS LIFETIME HIGH
42,597.43

JUMPS 704.37 POINTS

The NSE Nifty also climbed 197.50 points to finish at its all-time high of 12,461.05

During the day, it hit record level of 12,474.05

IN BRIEF

PM unveils ₹614-cr projects for Varanasi

VARANASI: PM Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated projects worth Rs 614 crore for his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, via video conferencing. On the occasion, he asked people to promote "local for Diwali" and buy local products this festival season, saying it would give a boost to the economy. He said the recent agricultural reforms would connect farmers directly to the market. PTI

Will hold Tricolour, J&K flag together: Mehbooba



MAJOR FOUND DEAD

Major Vineet Gullia, Company Commander of 38 Rashtriya Rifles, was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside his camp at Dhera Ki Gali in Rajouri district on Monday. IANS

Now, Punjab withdraws general consent to CBI

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9
Punjab has joined the Opposition-ruled states that have withdrawn general consent for an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A notification, issued on November 8, makes it necessary for the Central agency to get permission from the Punjab Government to conduct investigations in the state.

Eight other states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Kerala had withdrawn the general consent ear-

lier, alleging that the BJP-led government at the Centre was misusing the agency to harass its political opponents.

Punjab had earlier withdrawn consent to the CBI to investigate sacrilegious cases. The matter was caught in legal tangles and is presently being heard in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. — TNS

closed for a week or 10 days to break the infection chain.

Though 74 per cent of the parents had favoured the reopening of schools and colleges, the attendance has barely touched 30 per cent.

"What set the alarm bells ringing is 67 students and 25 teachers and staff members testing positive at the Tibetan Children Village boarding school at Chauntra in Mandi," said a Health Department official.

CASES UP, 123 TEACHERS TEST POSITIVE

- 123 govt schoolteachers and four students have tested positive so far
- Schools were reopened on Nov 2 for classes IX-XII
- after a long Covid break
- 67 students testing positive at a Tibetan boarding school in Mandi had set alarm bells ringing

opened on a regular basis for classes IX to XII from November 2, to submit details of the positive cases.

The matter is likely to be taken up at a Cabinet meeting tomorrow, being held in the

Education Department has asked the schools,



What I was missing the most during this lockdown was my weekly Kitty Party. This was my time with my gang of girls where we would eat, vent, gossip to our heart's content and just chill. An afternoon of doing nothing, after a week of running the home, taking care of the kid, the husband and managing the mother-in-law. A month into the lockdown, I was like an old pressure cooker, ready to explode! Then Dolly came up with the idea of doing the Kitty virtually. Now, while my daughter is in her virtual classroom, I am in my virtual chat room! Not quite the same, but not bad 'cause life has changed, it hasn't stopped!

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PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 9
With a steep rise in the number of government school-teachers and students reporting Covid positive, the Himachal Pradesh education authorities are considering to again shut the schools either indefinitely or for a certain period to snap the infection chain.

The Education Department has asked the schools,

paper.tribuneindia.com

Ready for talks with Centre on Nov 13, say farm leaders

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9 The farmers' leaders have said they are open to talks with a two-member ministerial delegation of the BJP-led NDA government, which has finally agreed to meet them on November 13.

BKU (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh Rajewal said the unions would first hold their own meeting before holding talks with the Union ministers. The meeting has been arranged between the farmers' leaders and the Centre following deliberations by both sides with Punjab-based BJP leaders.

Former minister Surjeet Kumar Jyani and Harjot Grewal had met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Agriculture Minister NS Tomar last evening. National Kisan

WILL DELIBERATE FIRST

“We have not received any letter in this regard, but are open to talks. The unions will first hold own meeting before the talks.

Balbir Singh Rajewal, BKU (RAJEWAL) PRESIDENT

DELHI POLICE NOT TO STIR

The Delhi Police have refused permission to farmer unions to hold protest in the National Capital on Nov 26-27. The farmers are planning to hold a massive rally against the farm laws

Morcha's former general secretary Harjot Singh Grewal today said that the Centre would meet farmers on Friday to find a way to end the

impasse over the farm laws.

The farmers' leaders, however, said they had not received any letter in this regard.

Meanwhile, the state continued to grapple with power outages today as private plants remained shut and the state-run plants were barely functional in the wake of lack of coal supply because of the disruption in train services.

PSPCL MD A Venu Prasad said of the total demand of 5,097 MW, 2,630 MW was being purchased, while 2,409 MW was coming from the central sector/pool. Of this, 1,075 MW was to be returned to states from where Punjab had taken power in the lean summer months under the power banking arrangements. As a result, the state had no option but to impose cuts of two-and-a-half hours during the peak load hours.

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has urged farm unions to lift their rail blockade to allow passenger trains to ply in the state in view of the initiative taken by the Centre to discuss the issue.

In a statement issued on Monday evening, the Chief Minister urged farmer organisations to take note of the Centre's move to hold talks with them and also take into account the inconvenience being caused to lakhs of Punjabis, including soldiers, who were unable to come home for Diwali due to the suspension of train movement in the state. Ending the rail blockade would facilitate these soldiers and others to join their families in the celebrations, he said.

The CM expressed hope that the talks convened by the Centre, which are scheduled for November 13 as per media



Farmers stage a protest against agri laws in Bathinda. FILE PHOTO

reports, would pave the way for early resolution of the crisis. The move indicated that the Centre was open to finding an amicable solution to the problems being faced by the farmers in the wake of the enactment of the laws, he said.

The farmers' anger had clearly reached the Central government, which seemed to be finally prepared to hear them out, said the CM. Now

that the message that they wanted to communicate through their blockade had reached the Centre, the unions should step back from their agitation and join the talks with the spirit of resolving the issue, he said.

He said he was confident that the unions would now respond by supporting its efforts to ease the situation in the larger interest of all stakeholders.

BJP INDULGING IN POLITICS

“Instead of questioning the Railways and supporting the state in persuading the Centre to allow freight trains, the BJP continues to indulge in politics at the cost of the welfare of the people.

Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

convinced the farmers to ease their blockade to let essential supplies come in. "Even now, several of my Cabinet colleagues are engaged with kisan unions to push for complete lifting of the blockade to allow even passenger movement," he said.

Farmers: Will oppose entry of pvt firms

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 9 A protest by farmers under the banner of the BKU (Ekta-Ugrahan) continued for the second day today in front of a mall where the farmers had forced closure of a store on Sunday.

BKU general secretary Sudagar Singh Ghudani said the farmers had also staged protests at a store in Dugri and another at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar and had got these stores closed.

He said as a protest against the Central government's farm laws, the farmers would continue to target the private company's stores across the state.

"Farmers will continue to fight against attempts being made by the Central government to bring corporate houses and MNCs in agriculture and give farm land in Punjab to corporate houses," the BKU leader said.

Ghudani and other speakers at the dharna said the ongoing agitation would be further intensified and the march of the farmers to Delhi on November 26 and 27 would pave the way for the next phase of agitation.

Lift rail blockade, CM urges protesters

Rlys' decision illogical: Capt

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

Dubbing the Railways' decision to link movement of goods trains in the state with passenger trains as irrational and illogical, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday claimed that by defending the decision, the BJP was further fuelling farmers' anger.

Rejecting BJP state unit president Ashwani Sharma's allegation of "arm-twisting" the Centre, the Chief Minister alleged that it was the BJP leadership that was inciting the farmers with its anti-Punjab stance on the issue.

On Sharma's accusation that the state government had failed to dissuade protesters from blocking train services, the Chief Minister said the fact was that it was his government which had

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SAD protests scholarship scam, leaders detained



SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia and others scuffle with the police in Phagwara on Monday.

Tribune News Service

PHAGWARA, NOVEMBER 9

The police today detained several SAD leaders, including former minister Bikram Singh Majithia, MLAs Pawan Tinu, Baldev Khaira, Sukhwinder Sukhi and other party workers.

They were detained while they were about to reach the residence of local MLA BS Dhaliwal over the issue of his alleged involvement in the SC post-matric scholarship scam.

Majithia and other leaders managed to dodge the police force and walked towards the MLA's house while the cops were busy stopping a truck that had SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, former ministers Daljit Singh Cheema and Gulzar S Ranike and former MP Prem S Chandumajra participated in a rally flaying the state government for "sheltering" SC Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot despite an enquiry report indicting him.

Stopped near house of MLA Dhaliwal

site on the Phagwara-Bangla-Chandigarh road.

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control the Akalis.

While Sukhbir's convoy was later allowed to pass by, Jagir Kaur and ex-MLA Sarabjit Makkar, who were part of an entourage, were prevented from heading towards the MLA's house to join the protest. They blocked the Phagwara bypass. Prior to the plan to gherao the MLA, former Assembly Speaker Charanjit Atwal, former ministers Daljit Singh Cheema and Gulzar S Ranike and former MP Prem S Chandumajra participated in a rally flaying the state government for "sheltering" SC Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot despite an enquiry report indicting him.

Centre treating state like enemy: Sukhbir

PHAGWARA, NOVEMBER 9

SAD chief Sukhbir Badal said today that the Centre was apparently treating Punjab like its enemy by imposing economic blockades on it.

Sukhbir said this on the sidelines of the party's rally at Phagwara today. "The Centre is following a dictatorial policy and sort of isolating Punjab on various ongoing issues.

The Central authorities are not even ready to meet people from Punjab. Such things are uncalled for in a democracy."

He claimed that the Centre seemed to be creating a divide between farmers and non-farming community or between the urban and

DICTIONARY POLICY

“The Centre is following a dictatorial policy and sort of isolating Punjab on various ongoing issues.

Sukhbir Badal, SAD CHIEF

rural Punjab. On the closure of the Kartarpur corridor, Sukhbir said, "I am planning to take a delegation on the matter to the Centre. Guru Nanak's 551st Gurpurab is around the corner and there is an increasing sentiment in the Sikh community that the corridor should be opened, especially since everything else has got unlocked." — TNS



SAD chief Sukhbir Badal and party leader Bibi Jagir Kaur at a protest rally in Phagwara on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SARABJIT SINGH

AAP seeks law to ensure MSP on all crops

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

Newly-appointed state co-president of the youth wing of the state Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Anmol Gagan Mann on Monday dared Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to go for enacting own laws to ensure

DARES CAPT TO QUIT

“If the CM is not able to bring the MSP under legal ambit, he should quit office immediately.

Anmol Gagan Mann, AAP LEADER

minimum support price (MSP) to farmers on all crops

to save the community.

Mann was addressing the media here on Monday after being appointed the state co-president.

He said if the CM was not able to bring the MSP under legal ambit, he should quit office immediately. She said the AAP would enact a law on guaranteeing procure-

ment of crops at MSPs, not only wheat and paddy but also on basmati and all crops and vegetables.

He said Capt should pitch in to have own laws to ensure the guaranteee, demanding that he should immediately convene a special session of the Vidhan Sabha in this regard.

Centre working against farmers' interests: Rawat

Tribune News Service

LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 9

The Centre is being unfair with Punjab by not resuming the train services and reopening the Kartarpur corridor, said All-India Congress Committee general secretary and state in-charge Harish Rawat here today.

Rawat, during a visit to the city, said the Centre was working against the interests of farmers and called it discriminatory and undemocratic. The government needed to adopt a middle path by initiating talks with farmers, he said. "Farmers cleared railway tracks after talks with Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, but the Modi government did not resume services. The Railway Minister should have held talks with farmers, but it seems the Centre wants to punish them for no fault of theirs," said Rawat.

The Director, Food Supplies, said they were also getting checks conducted in all mandis that had seen an unusually high arrival of paddy. "Nineteen such mandis were examined today. We have observed that this phenomenon is more prevalent in mandis near the Haryana border. It is assumed Punjab farmers are not going to Haryana to sell their produce because of the Covid guidelines, but are selling it here," she said.

He asserted the state government was standing by the farming community and trying to build pressure on the Centre to roll back the farm laws.

Asked about the SC Post-

PUNISHED FOR NO FAULT

“Farmers cleared tracks after talks with the CM, but the Centre did not resume services. The Railway Minister should have met farmers, but it seems the Centre wants to punish them for no fault of theirs. Harish Rawat, AICC GEN SECY

Matric Scholarship Scheme scam, Rawat said minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot had been given a clean chit by two inquiry committees.

On the Bihar election results, he said the alliance would win and people would reject the BJP government.

Rawat later took part in a dharna staged by party's women wing. "It is disheartening to see the rising crime graph against women but the government is committed to protecting the rights of women and acting tough against culprits," he said.

Physical checking at mandis as paddy target exceeded

Food and Supplies Department verifies stocks at rice mills that got produce on release orders

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

With paddy procurement in Punjab far exceeding the estimated targeted, much beyond the claimed 10 per cent increase in productivity, the Food and Supplies Department has started physical verification of mandis where surplus paddy arrivals have been recorded in the ongoing paddy season.

The department has also started conducting checks on rice mills, which received paddy on release orders, to ensure the stocks of paddy purchased by these through release orders are physically present in their stocks.

"This has been done following complaints that rice mills got the release orders

for paddy to be bought inter or intra district, but no physical purchase was done," said Anandita Mitra, Director, Food and Supplies.

The complaints received by the department, it was alleged mill owners, in connivance with commission agents of mandis from where they were to receive paddy on release orders, showed the purchase on behalf of procurement agencies on paper.

While the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 1,888 per quintal was alleged to have been pocketed by them, the mills got cheaper paddy (at the rate of Rs 800-Rs 1,000 per quintal) from outside the state and stocked it to show it as the paddy purchased through release orders. Behind, the government was suspected to

have increased the limit of paddy to be allotted to mills under the release order scheme, between 375 metric tonne and 2,000 metric tonne.

Mitra said though they

were sure it was not possible as all processes for getting release orders were transparent and done online, upon receiving some complaints, they immediately

swung into action and started getting physical verification of the mills done.

"The department has already verified all such rice mills in Fazilka district and

ACTION TAKEN ON COMPLAINTS

“Checks are being done following complaints that rice mills got release orders for paddy to be bought inter or intra district, but no physical purchase was done.

Anandita Mitra, DIRECTOR, FOOD AND SUPPLIES

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, says paddy production has gone up by 10%. Agriculture dept's initial estimate of market arrival of paddy was 164 lakh metric tonne.

With a 10% higher productivity, the arrival should stand at 180.4 LMT. To date, the state has procured 182.98 LMT paddy. An average of 3.50 LMT is arriving in mandis every day

2nd sero survey begins next week

State to conduct antibody test on over 4,800 individuals in 12 dists

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9
To estimate the prevalence of Covid-19 in the state, the government is going conduct second sero-prevalence survey. The antibody test will be done on randomly selected 4,800 people from 12 districts.

According to health officials, the work on sample collection would start just after Diwali. "We are expecting the entire exercise to be completed by November-end," said Hussan Lal, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare.

According to a plan prepared by the department, samples of 400 people (200 each from urban and rural areas) in each district will be taken and analysed for Covid antibodies.

After collecting the samples, laboratory technicians will process with Covid



A health worker takes a swab sample in Nawanshahr.

Last survey in August had found antibodies in 27.7% population in containment zones

Kavach Elisa testing kits.

In August, the government had conducted a survey in Punjab's containment zones and had found 27.7 per cent of the people living in these zones were

positive for antibodies, indicating that they had already been infected and recovered. The survey was conducted in five containment zones from August 1 to 17.

521 fresh cases

In the past 24 hours, the state reported 562 cases and 21 deaths. As per a government bulletin released on Saturday, the total number of cases has reached 1,37,999 and deaths 4,338.

In the district-wise break-up of the cases, Ludhiana topped the chart with 96, followed by SAS Nagar (89), Jalandhar (77), Hoshiarpur (46), Patiala (41) and Bathinda (40).

Witnessing a slight increase, the number of active cases has reached 4,934 in the state.

At present, 127 patients are on oxygen support and 14 on ventilator support.

Hoshiarpur reported three deaths; Amritsar, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, SAS Nagar, Tarn Taran and Patiala two deaths each; and Sangrur and Muktsar one death each.

Daily Covid tests dip by 10K in a month

KARAM PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 9

Over the last month, average Covid-19 sampling in the state has dropped by 10,000 tests per day. From around 30,000 daily tests in October, the average daily testing has been reduced to 20,000 in November. However, the Health Department claimed that it had to reduce tests after the positivity rate declined in the state. On October 14, the Health Department collected around 30,000 samples while positive case turned out to be just 549.

However, things have changed in a month. On November 6, 19,312 samples were collected and 647 positive cases were reported.

Experts said Health Department and locals had become complacent about the spread of the virus following the decline in cases and fatalities. Sources said health officials

Numbers lower with falling positivity rate, says Health Dept

had stopped conducting the tests of close contacts of positive patients unless they were symptomatic. In fact, asymptomatic contacts were discouraged by health officials to get the tests done.

A health official said, "Now, tests are being conducted only when it is necessary. Otherwise, we inform the close contacts of patients to isolate for a few days."

Meanwhile, Dr Manjit Singh, Director, Health Department, said there was a 2 per cent decline in the positivity rate, therefore fewer tests were being conducted.

"I have directed all civil surgeons to ramp up testing as the cases have started rising again," said Dr Manjit Singh.

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Panel chief meets rape victim's kin

FEROZEPUR, NOVEMBER 9

Punjab State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairman Rajinder Singh today met the family members of the three-year-old girl who was allegedly raped by her father here. The incident took place at Habib Wala village two days ago following which the police had registered a case and arrested the accused.

Rajinder Singh told mediapersons he had given instructions to officers to complete the probe at the earliest. "I have also instructed the Secretary, DLSA, to coordinate in providing financial relief to the victim's family," he said. —OC

Govt may extend parole of convicts

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9
While the Chandigarh Administration has decided to recall convicts on special Covid-19 parole, Punjab is likely to extend the concession to convicts in the state fearing a second wave of the pandemic.

Nearly 5,000 convicts in the state were allowed special parole to decongest jails amidst the pandemic.

A high-power committee headed by a senior judge will meet on November 18 to take a final decision. Officials said the Punjab Government would not recommend recalling the convicts as the second wave of Covid-19 had struck some parts of the state, besides the National Capital.

"It is a long-drawn-out process to send a convict on parole. It will be better to wait for the threat of the second wave to pass before getting the convicts back in jails. If we recall them now and the pandemic takes an ugly turn, we will have to again look at de-congesting jails," said a senior official.

Committee to take final call on November 18

DECONGESTING JAILS

- Amid Covid, 5,000 convicts were allowed special parole to decongest jails
- Of nearly 23,000 inmates in the state jails, less than 7,000 are convicts

ADGP (Jails) PK Sinha said the committee would take a decision on the matter. "We will submit to the committee the present status report vis-à-vis the convicts and pandemic threat," he said.

Sources in the Jails Department, however, said they would prefer recalling convicts to ease burden on jail staff in maintenance of prisons. "Convicts are given rigorous punishment under which they work in jail factories, kitchen, gardens, fields and general upkeep. They are paid for the work. In their absence, the jail staff or remaining convicts are under stress of additional duties," said a source.

HC: File status report in Maur blast case by Jan

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9
Just about two months after the Punjab and Haryana High Court set a two-week deadline for making all-out efforts to arrest the main accused in the Maur Mandi blast case, it today told the Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) and other respondents to file a status report.

The Bench also fixed January 19, 2021, as the next date of hearing in the matter on the contempt petition filed by Gurjeet Singh

Patran alleging wilful disobedience of the High Court orders. The Bench, in September, had expressed displeasure before directed the making of all-out efforts to nab the main accused.

The Bench observed that the SIT had concluded the inquiry and investigation and the challan had been put up before the trial court on January 29, but the main accused had not been taken into custody. "We show our displeasure that till date, the main accused have not been arrested," the Bench had added.

Man shot in Barnala

BARNALA, NOVEMBER 9

A Kaleke resident was shot while two others suffered serious injuries after some villagers opened fire and attacked them with sharp weapons over a land dispute. The police have initiated an investigation and are conducting raids to arrest the suspects.

Jasmale Singh claimed Pardeep Singh, Bhupinder Singh and Mani Singh opened fire while he along with his nephews Kulwinder Singh (37) and Gurkirat Singh was working in the field. He alleged

Fatal assault over land dispute

the accused had a land dispute with them.

Dhanaula SHO Kuldeep Singh said: "We have registered a case and are conducting raids to arrest the accused." Jasmale had last evening informed the police about the dispute and both parties were summoned to the police station in the morning. However, the accused attacked the victims in the morning. —TNS

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I, Aayasa Gupta D/o Ajay Kumar R/o Mullanpur Garibdas (Mohali) my CBSE Board 10th Class, 2017, Roll No. 2287403 and 12th Class 2019, Roll No. 2769115 certificate are lost at 16.10.2020. (CL20061759)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Pallavi w/o Ramesh Kumar r/o village Mithapur, Tepla, District Ambala, have changed my name to Palvi Rani. Concerned note. (CL20061742)

I, Ravinder Kumar s/o Late Behari Lal r/o B-111, Harmilap Nagar, Behind DRM Colony, Ambala Cantt, have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar Sehgal s/o Behari Lal Sehgal. Concerned note. (CL20061749)

I, Sunita Kumar w/o Ravinder Kumar Sehgal r/o B-111, Harmilap Nagar, behind DRM Colony, Ambala Cantt, have changed my name to Sunita. Concerned note. (CL20061754)

I, Ritu Rani w/o Gurman Singh r/o Bhagal, Tehsil Guhla (Kaithal) Haryana declare that I have changed my name Ritu to Jasvir Rani. Noted all. (CL20061757)

I, Jasvir son of Nazar resident of Mohalla Jalandhari Gate, Nurmahal (Jalandhar), have changed my name Jasvir to Jasvir Sonndhi. (CL20061751)

I, No. 2655064 Hav Gian Chand Sharma son of Late Gangaram Ram, Village Karori, PO Rajot, Tehsil Palampur, District Kangra states that name of my daughter has appeared as Bindu in my Army records, her correct name is Bindu Sharma. (CL20061758)

I, Jija Bai w/o Tuka Ram No. 7045909 r/o 101/B-1, Nalagarh road (Near Shiv Mandir), New Model Town Colony, Pinjore, Distt. Panchkula declare that my name & date of birth has wrongly mentioned as Jeeja Bai & 01/01/1948 respectively in the service record of my husband. These may please be corrected as Jija Bai & 01/07/1940 as per my Adhaar Card number 4235 3093 716. (CL20061691)

I, Sagar s/o Randeep Singh r/o Lalu, SAS Nagar (Mohali) declare that I belongs to Rajput Sikh religion vide Affidavit No. 2992 Dt. 04/11/2020 before Executive Magistrate, Derabassi. (CL20061708)

I, Shunty Kumar s/o Mohan Lal r/o Lalu, SAS Nagar (Mohali) declare that I belongs to Nai Sikh religion vide Affidavit No. 2993 Dt. 04/11/2020 before Executive Magistrate, Derabassi. (CL20061712)

I, No. JC279867A Sub Dinesh Kumar, Vill. Kalot, PO Rakhab, Distt. Mandi, HP declare that my wife Neena Kumari date of birth corrected from 29 Jan. 1982 to 01 Feb. 1981 vide affidavit 16AA756875. Please note. (CL20061720)

I, Pratibha, spouse of No. 1492419A Ranveer Singh, Jalki Sandip Mahadeo r/o Village Nandura, PO Nandura, Tehsil Nandura, Distt. Buldana, State Maharashtra, Pin-443404, have change my name from Pratibha to Pratibha Sandip Jalki vide affidavit dated 3.11.2020 before Sri Ganganganagar. (CL20061735)

I, Ms Kamaljeet Kaur, daughter of Late. Ex. J.W.O. Service No. 266544 Surjan Singh Sidhu, resident of H.No. 3399/1, Sector 47-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Kamaljeet Kaur Kamaljeet Kaur as per my Aadhar Card and other documents for future reference. (CL20061739)

I, Amritdeep Singh s/o Harjit Singh r/o Ward 2, Gopal Nagar, Ajnala, Distt. Amritsar declare that in my Matriculation Examination certificate Index No. T/3073/078, No. TW 20089504 of ICSE Board, New Delhi the name of my mother is recorded as Kawaljit Kaur erroneously whereas correct spelling of her name are

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Illegal sale on in Muktsar

ARCHIT WATTS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, NOVEMBER 9

Though the district administration has temporarily permitted a limited number of people to sell crackers this festive season, some shopkeepers are selling these in busy markets and narrow lanes illegally.

Taking note, the local fire safety office, too, has written to senior officers, expressing its inability to deal with any untoward situation. A visit to local markets revealed that crackers were being sold without permission. Sham Lal, sub-fire officer, Muktsar, said: "The administration has given temporary permission to some shopkeepers to sell crackers at four designated places in the town. However, some shopkeepers are selling crackers in some narrow lanes. We have written to the SDM and tehsildar, expressing inability to deal with any unwanted situation under such circumstances." —TNS

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Hit by cracker ban in NCR, dealers turn to Pb market

Already choking on farm fires, state's air quality dips to 'poor'

AMAN SOOD

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 9

Following a ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in Delhi and adjoining areas starting midnight of November 9 to November 30 by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), wholesalers are dumping their stock in Punjab, eyeing hefty profits.

Cracker rates have already plummeted by more than 20 per cent despite the air quality in Punjab dipping from moderate to poor in the past fortnight following over 60,000 farm fire incidents.

As per the orders, if anyone in Delhi is caught bursting firecrackers during the ban, he/she can be sentenced to 1.5-6 years in jail. The ban has been imposed ahead of Diwali to prevent further rise in air pollution and will be applicable to more than two dozen districts across four states that are part of the National Capital Region (NCR).

Only green crackers — considered less polluting — will be sold in cities and towns where air quality is "moderate". Our super stockists in Delhi are offering dis-



A customer purchases crackers in Chandigarh. FILE PHOTO

NO INFO ON GREEN FIREWORKS

There is no information on where green crackers can be purchased in the state. The authorities in every district should work on this. We will study the orders in detail and monitor the situation accordingly. PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD OFFICIAL

counts on crackers exceeding 20 per cent, and with down payments in cash, it touches 36 per cent over and above the discount," said Amandeep Singh, a wholesale dealer from Ludhiana's Daresi road.

Information gathered by The Tribune reveals that

wholesalers in Punjab are being offered heavy discounts, in addition to delivery of the crackers within Punjab for bulk orders. Subsequently, the rates of branded crackers have reduced by 20 per cent.

"In case of cash down payment, the discount touches

over 30 per cent over and above the existing discount," said a wholesaler from Delhi, adding that the discounts on banned polluting items (high noise bombs and aerial crackers) are even bigger. "We have to clear our stocks, whatever it takes," said cracker supplier of Delhi's Sadar Bazaar. Cracker sellers said among the high-selling zones in Punjab are the districts of Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Ferozepur and Patiala. Sources said even before the district magistrates in Punjab issued licences for cracker sale, those close to the ruling party had already started stocking.

"Even if someone in Punjab wants to buy green crackers, there is no information on where these can be purchased.

The administration has not provided this information. Every district should provide information two-three days in advance from where people can buy green crackers," said a Punjab Pollution Control Board official, adding: "We will study the orders in detail and monitor the situation."

Drug peddlers need to be dealt with sternly: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

An accused in a drugs case, who tried to argue that contraband allegedly recovered from him would fall under the non-commercial category if the polythene bag's weight was excluded, has failed to find favour with the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Turning down his regular bail plea, Justice HS Madaan also made it clear that drug peddlers were required to be dealt with firmly and sternly. Any misplaced sympathy for them in granting bail liberally would result in increased drug trafficking, exposing more people to the menace and creating turmoil in society.

Battle of nerves, stakes high

GEETANJALI GAYATRI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9
With counting of votes for the Baroda bypoll slated for Tuesday, the stakes are high not only for the ruling BJP-JJP alliance and the main opposition party, the Congress, but also for their leaders for different reasons.

The BJP and JJP, which came together post election, are looking at wrestling the seat from the Congress since they are in the government.

Though the outcome has no bearing on the numbers game in the 90-member House, where the BJP is comfortably placed after joining hands with the JJP, a defeat will reflect poorly on the alliance after one year of being in power, especially since the entire top brass was camping in Baroda right through the campaign.

Also, this election assumes importance individually for the state BJP chief, former minister OP Dhankar, since the Baroda bypoll was the first election the party faced after it took charge.

Besides, in a caste-ridden election, the outcome will be a measure of the sway the Jat-non-Jat alliance of the BJP and JJP has.

While Dhankar is a Jat, the



ON THE LINE

- The poll assumes importance for state BJP chief OP Dhankar as it is the first poll under his charge
- It'll measure the sway of a Jat-non-Jat alliance and gauge the impact of Dushyant on voters
- It'll be a reflection on CLP leader Bhupinder Hooda's dominance in area

election will gauge the impact of the JJP's Dushyant Chautala, also the Deputy Chief Minister in Manohar Lal Khattar government, among voters, essentially because the party and its leaders have marketed the Jat card all along.

"We will win because there is no match for our candidate for the state BJP chief, former minister OP Dhankar, since the Baroda bypoll was the first election the party faced after it took charge."

While the election outcome will decide whether or not the public is with the Congress stand on the farm laws and

other issues of unrest among various sections of society under the BJP rule that the party raked up right through the campaign, it will also be a reflection on Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda's dominance in the area, especially since he and his MP-son Deepender Hooda managed the entire election campaign from the word go.

Maintaining that the Congress would win the seat, the CLP leader said the Congress performance during the 10-year rule under his leadership and the failure of the BJP in the last six years would clinch the seat for the party.

Hooda and state Congress chief Kumari Selja were of the unanimous view that the mis-governance of the BJP would be its undoing. "Farmers are agitated about farm laws and they are not getting MSP for their produce. Employees are protesting, the poor are the worst hit and all sections have lost hope in the government," the two leaders asserted.

Despite contentions of a win by both parties, the verdict in the Baroda bypoll, whichever way it goes, will not just be about the parties vying with each other, but also about the leaders and the clout they carry.



MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, NOVEMBER 9

The preliminary investigation into the hooch death case has brought out that extra neutral alcohol (ENA), which is used to manufacture sanitizers, perfumes and medicines, reached illicit liquor manufacturers via dhabas situated on national highways.

To unearth the supply net-

work of illicit liquor manufacturers, the Sonepat police have approached their counterparts in Rajasthan.

The Rajasthan Police had recently unearthed an illegal liquor manufacturing unit in Bhiwadi of Alwar district. An Ambala connection was found in that case, sources say.

The spurious liquor has claimed 48 lives in Sonepat and Panipat districts.

The sources say drivers of ENA-laden tankers, which started from Bhind in Madhya Pradesh, supplied the raw material to dhaba owners en route.

Hooda hits back at Assembly Speaker

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Monday hit back at Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta over not allowing voting on the Centre's three farm laws.

"The Opposition was seeking voting on the three farm laws. It would have shown the people backing these laws and

those siding with the farmers. But the Speaker refused voting, citing Rule 184, which was unfortunate. It seems that he does not fully understand the rules, as number 183 precedes 184," Hooda said.

He said it was clear in the rules that the Speaker could get voting under Rule 183, if he wished. — TNS

the NHAI, but they chose to bypass the procedure.

Quashing the communication, Justice Kshetarpal asserted that the Constitution's vision provided that the "state shall not deny to any person equality before law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India" and its basic structure provided that there would be no discrimination.

PUNJAB HERITAGE AND TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD

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Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in association with Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India is organizing certification programme for tourist facilitator (IIFT). The online certification programme is open for interested candidates of age 18 years and above. For more details about the program and the eligibility, registration etc, please visit to the website iift.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Director

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

Sr. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost	Earnest Money	F/ Cost	Time Limit
1	Improvement of BVMP Zone No. 2 and 3 in Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH:- Preparation of working estimate for Zone No. 2 & 3)	Rs. 3,67,382/-	Rs. 7350/-	Rs. 250/-	Three months

Last date of submission of tender: 17/11/2020 up to 11.00 a.m.
Last date sale of tender from the division office: 16/11/2020 up to 5.00 p.m.

The tender form and other detail and condition can be downloaded from the website www.hiph.org, or from office of Jal Shakti Division, Baggi up to date specified above.

**Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Baggi.**

H.P. BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, DHARAMSHALA - 176213

Hi. Shi. Bo/STORE(7)/2020- 805-807 Dated: 09.11.2020

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Sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned for printing, manufacturing and supply of carton boxes from reputed and experienced firms having experience of handling such jobs.

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Sd/- Secretary,
HP Board of School Education,
Dharamshala - 176213.

DI-13503



Administration of Union Territory of Chandigarh (Electricity Wing on Engineering Department) NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR

SELECTION OF BIDDER FOR PURCHASE OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) SHARES IN DISTRIBUTION COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND HAVING DISTRIBUTION LICENSE IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH

Electricity Wing of Engineering Department of Union Territory of Chandigarh invites bids from interested bidders for Selection of Qualifications and Bidder for purchase of one hundred percent (100%) shares in Distribution Company responsible for distribution and retail supply of electricity and having distribution license in the Union Territory of Chandigarh".

The RFP, along with other RFP Documents providing details of the Bid process, would be issued to interested Bidders against a fee of Indian Rupees Five Lakh only (INR 5,00,000.00), along with applicable GST charges and all other applicable statutory levies, in the form of electronic transfer (RTGS) or demand draft or banker's cheque or pay order drawn in favour of Executive Engineer Electricity 'OP' Division No. 2, Indl. Area Ph-1, UT, Chandigarh, payable at Chandigarh only. Bidders are requested to email details of successful remittance of cost of RFP documents to bidders-chd@nic.in for issuance of RFP documents along with the details of contact person and email id which shall be used for further correspondence during the bid process.

The details of the RFP along with important milestones is provided below:

- Cost of RFP Documents INR 50,00,000.00 + GST
- Bid Security INR 10,00,00,000.00 in the form of Bank Guarantee as per RFP
- Bank details Account Name: EXEC ENGG ELECTC (OP) DIVN NO. 2 CHD IFSC Code: SBIN0000628
- GST details GST Number: 04PTLE10623E1D6 Start Date: 10.11.2020 End Date: 23.12.2020
- Sale of RFP 24.11.2020
- Last date of submission of queries 01.12.2020
- Date of Pre-bid meeting 30.12.2020, 4.00 p.m.
- Last date of bid submission

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Electricity OP Division No. 2, Industrial Area Phase 1,
Electricity Wing of Engineering Department of
Chandigarh Union Territory of Chandigarh.

WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

Please join us on

Dhabas supply points for ENA: Probe

Dhaba owners, on their part, sold the ENA to illicit liquor manufacturers.

The investigation has brought out that people involved in manufacturing illicit liquor had a nexus with dhaba owners.

It has also been found that some tankers seized by the Rajasthan Police were owned by an Ambala man.

A man from Jind and another from Chandigarh were also named in that case, the sources say.

"We are in touch with the Rajasthan Police. We have got vital clues on the ENA supply.

The details cannot be disclosed at this stage because the inquiry is under way," the SP added.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Jashandeep Singh Randhawa said one of arrested accused, Kishor of Bihar, had admitted to hav-

ing supplied the essence, a concentrated liquid which gives flavour to liquor, and empty bottles to illicit liquor manufacturers.

The investigation has brought out that people involved in manufacturing illicit liquor had a nexus with dhaba owners.

It has also been found that some tankers seized by the Rajasthan Police were owned by an Ambala man.

A man from Jind and another from Chandigarh were also named in that case, the sources say.

"We are in touch with the Rajasthan Police. We have got vital clues on the ENA supply.

The details cannot be disclosed at this stage because the inquiry is under way," the SP added.

Besides Kishor, the police nabbed Ankit and Mohit,

owners of an illegal liquor unit in Kharkhoda which was unearthed on Thursday.

One more dies in F'bad, toll 3

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, NOVEMBER 9

Spurious liquor has claimed the life of one more man in the district, taking the toll to three. Jind resident Jasbir (30), who worked at a fuel station, died in hospital on Sunday night.

Besides, five men, who fell sick after drinking spurious liquor, are under treatment.

Although the police have received complaints regarding two deaths, they are yet to register an FIR.

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION / DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancellation of Mail/Express/Festival Special/Partially Cancellation Special/Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains/Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation at Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	10.11.2020
02054/02053 Amritsar-Haridwar-Amritsar Janshatabdi Express	11.11.2020
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	10.11.2020
02461 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	11.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	10.11.2020
02029/02030 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	10.11.2020
04624 Amritsar Jn. - Saharsa Jn. Express	11.11.2020
04623 Saharsa Jn. Amritsar Jn. - Express	12.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
01449 Jabalpur - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	10.11.2020
01450 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Jabalpur Express	11.11.2020
05211 Darbhanga Jn. - Amritsar Jn. Express	10.11.2020
05212 Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Express	12.11.2020
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	10.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	11.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	10.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	11.11.2020

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Firecracker ban

States, UTs should implement NGT order in earnest

THE National Green Tribunal's (NGT) ban on the sale or use of firecrackers in the National Capital Region till November 30 has literally come as a gasp of breath. If strictly enforced, the order can help to counter the deadly cocktail formed by the Covid-19 pandemic and air pollution during the festive season. Importantly, this ban will be applicable to all cities and towns in the country where the average ambient air quality during November 2019 was poor or worse. Citing public health concerns, Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Chandigarh have already prohibited firecrackers till the month-end or for an indefinite period.

Acknowledging every citizen's right to breathe clean air, the NGT has observed that 'celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases.' India has already lost more than 1.25 lakh lives to the pandemic, even as several states are witnessing a resurgence of the disease after a short-lived lull. That is reason enough to keep the festivities subdued, neither noisy nor smoky, confining ourselves to the lighting of lamps or other means of illumination and avoiding large gatherings.

Studies have found that particulate air pollution contributes 15 per cent to the Covid-19 mortality worldwide. Considering that India is among the countries worst affected by the virus, all states and union territories should ensure that the NGT's well-intentioned initiative doesn't go up in smoke. In 2018, the Supreme Court had banned the use of polluting firecrackers and allowed the sale of 'green' ones, an option endorsed by the tribunal for cities/towns where the air quality was moderate or better in November last year. However, the segregation of these products is easier said than done in view of dubious claims by manufacturers and vendors. A related direction, fixing hours for the bursting of crackers on Diwali, Gurpurab, Christmas etc. has largely proved to be futile due to lax implementation. While the ban is only for the short term, shunning firecrackers eventually ought to become a sane way of life — Covid or no Covid.

Changes in PRIs

Half the seats for women is a bold step

THE introduction of 33 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), it was felt, would herald socio-political reform. The transformation towards gender equity has been annoyingly slow, patriarchy continues to mark its presence in proxy attendance, but change has decidedly come. Active participation by women and assertion of rights and duties are encouraging milestones. Taking it forward is an evolving process. In that context, the passage of a Bill to amend the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act that seeks to ensure that 50 per cent seats are kept for women is a bold step. After each village is given a code, seats will be reserved for women and men on the basis of even-odd numbers. Where a woman sarpanch is elected first, the village will have an 'other than woman' successor; it may even include a transgender, according to the Chief Minister. The rule will be applicable in future elections to Zila Parishads, Block Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats.

The endeavour, it appears, is to lend more weight to concepts of equal opportunity, active involvement, consensus on policy and reposing trust in the resource pool of experience. Equally important is to sensitise male co-workers. The downside of a one-term norm and rotation of seats could be a lack of consistency in policy and working style, and a discouraging pause for someone who has invested much time and effort in understanding the nitty-gritty of governance.

A significant amendment is the Right to Recall, giving villagers the right to remove a sarpanch who fails to perform, even before his or her tenure is over. To remove the sarpanch, 33 per cent of the voters of the village will have to give a complaint of no-confidence in writing; removal would need 67 per cent approval. The idea is to ensure that the sarpanch prioritises works in accordance with the sentiments of the villagers.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Diplomacy: the art of restraining power.

— Henry Kissinger

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1920

The System "Versus" Individuals.

THE keynote of the speeches of both Lala Lajpat Rai and Colonel Wedgwood at the public dinner given to the latter on Sunday night was the emphasis that both of them laid on the supreme necessity of ending the present system of government in the country, as distinguished from securing the punishment of the official offenders. So far as Colonel Wedgwood is concerned, this implies no change of opinion. It is well known that this was exactly the view he expressed in his great speech in the House of Commons during the Dyer debate. The case is somewhat different with Lala Lajpat Rai, who, like other prominent public men in the Punjab and elsewhere, has before now undoubtedly felt very strongly on the subject of the punishment of these officials. His famous proposal for the boycott of the Councils was based principally on the ground that these officials had not been punished and that it was, in his opinion, inconsistent with national self-respect for any Indian to cooperate with an administration of which these men still formed parts. But here, too, the new position implies no real change of ground, though it undoubtedly implies a change of front. It was out of no feelings of vindictiveness that the Lala or his countrymen wanted the perpetrators of martial law atrocities to be punished, but solely in order to prevent a recurrence of similar atrocities in future. From that position, he has not resiled. The reason why he is no longer keen on securing the punishment of the official offenders is that the Government have, by announcing their decision in the matter and shutting out even the discussion of the subject in the Legislative Council, demonstrated the futility of expecting anything more from them in this direction, and that their attitude in the matter has turned men's attention from the tools of policy to its source from the individuals demoralised by a system.

Biden's China policy

Focus will be on making US more competitive, rather than blackballing the Dragon



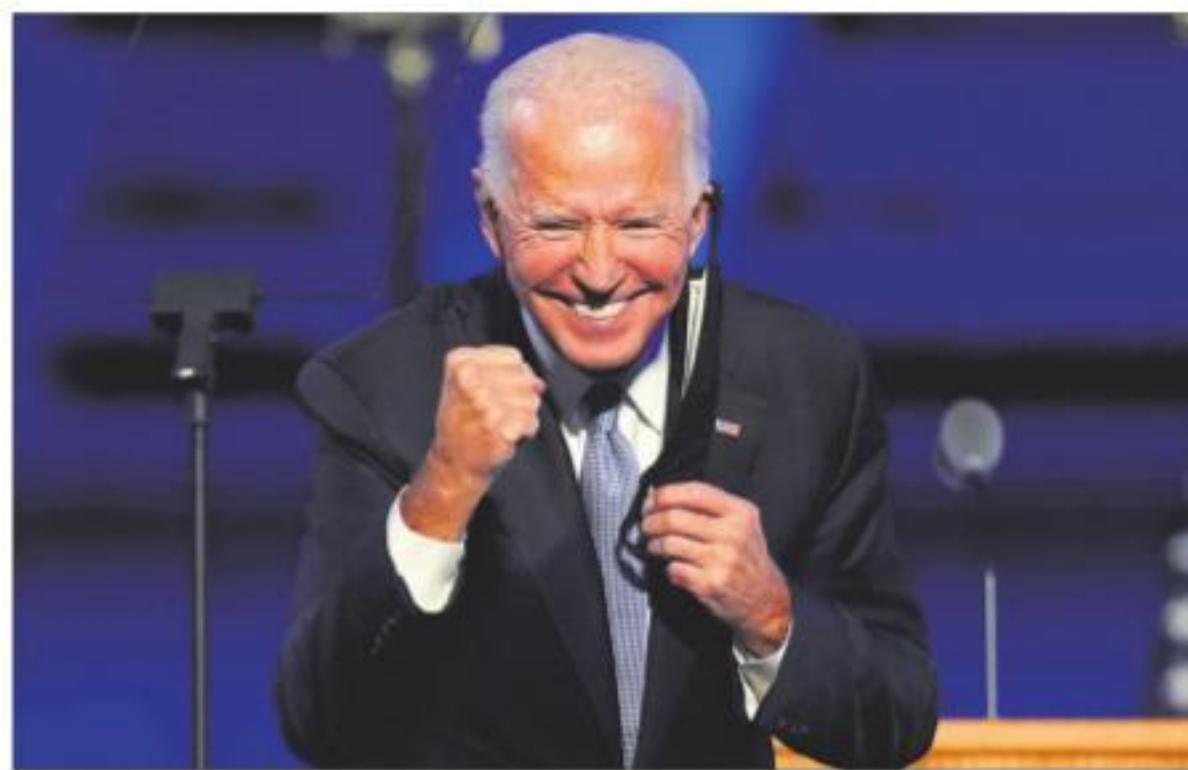
MANOJ JOSHI

DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ONE of the biggest questions confronting the future American foreign policy is: What will be the Biden administration's outlook towards China? If there has been one decisive shift in the Trump era, it has been the change in China's status from a friend to a peer competitor and, indeed, adversary. This has not come about with any great planning. It began with a seemingly whimsical policy of equalising the trade balance between the two countries, but morphed into a technology war that saw the US pass increasingly restrictive rules against high-tech trade with China. Then, mixed with the Xinjiang and Hong Kong issues, it has brought relations between the two countries to a new Cold War.

Biden's political life has spanned an era in which there was consensus in US politics and business that the goal of American policy was to integrate China into the US-led world order. He was an early champion of China joining the WTO and argued that it was in America's self-interest to have China prosper. But neither he nor his contemporaries of either party addressed the currency manipulation, the forced transfer and the outright theft of technology that China used to get ahead, issues that hurt America grievously. It was only towards the end of the Obama presidency that the US began to raise the issue of cyber theft, tightening restrictions on Chinese investments in the US, challenging China in the South China Sea.

Trump was a quintessential outsider, not attached to any policy



SUPPORT: China's economic strength will emerge as a strong magnet for Wall Street and US corporates who will push to moderate any hardline position.

Biden and his advisers are savvy enough to realise that China is best handled by taking allies along, something that Trump disdained.

and he had no hesitation in attacking China, the WTO, the WHO or whatever. His signature concern was trade deficits and so he imposed tariffs on most Chinese exports to the US. But this January, he signed a phase I trade agreement with China which would have substantially enhanced China-US trade, but then Covid-19 intervened. Even as he stepped up his attack on China, a clutch of his advisers, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, trade adviser Peter Navarro, and Deputy National Security Adviser Matt Pottinger, pushed policy aimed at an across-the-board decoupling from China.

There are two aspects of policy now. First, what could Trump do between now and the date he must leave office, January 20, 2021, with regard to China. He is bitter indeed that the pandemic undermined what looked like a shoo-in re-election. Egging him on will be his hardline officials who will want to alter the US policy to China in such fundamental ways that it cannot be undone.

The second is Biden's own policy thereafter. Though in the Obama administration, Biden was no China hawk, during the presidential campaign to respond to the Trump administration, he has positioned himself as a hardline critic of China who has even called Xi Jinping a 'thug' over his treatment of the Uighurs in Xinjiang.

People will be looking to see how he acts on the issue of tariffs and Taiwan, if that issue comes up. But he is unlikely to undo the current consensus that a more forceful and even confrontational approach is needed vis-à-vis Beijing. But one big difference is that instead of the whimsical, go-it-alone Trump style, the Biden administration could make it far more effective by roping in allies and building a consensus. The US now realises that the competition with China is not just over the South China Sea; there is an all-round competition involving technology, ideology and the economy. It's a big task, and Biden and his advisers are savvy enough to realise that this is best

handled by taking allies along, something that Trump disdained.

There are important signals that could be sent at the very outset. If Michele Flournoy is appointed to head the Department of Defence, there will be a hardliner who will not compromise on taking on the Chinese militarily. Likewise, a great deal will depend on the China position of his other Cabinet and sub-Cabinet appointees.

The second, and from India's point of view, potentially important signal, has been Biden's promise that he will meet with the Dalai Lama at the earliest. Biden attacked Trump as being the first President in three decades not to have met His Holiness. This will be seen as a hostile act by Beijing.

Biden is unlikely to face opposition in rejoicing the Paris climate accord or the WHO, but whether or not he can return the US to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) or begin reducing tariffs on the \$360 billion worth of Chinese goods, is not easy to say. His advantage is that many of the things that Trump did was through executive orders (EOs) and did not have the force of legislation, so it should be easy to turn the clock back by simply issuing fresh EO's.

Beyond policies and personalities, there will be larger trends influencing America's China policy in the post-Covid world. There are shifts in global trade and industrial techniques which will bring supply chains closer home. Biden has said it will encourage this through policy, and possibly even subsidy. The second leg of this policy will be a government-backed campaign to take on China in high-tech areas like AI, quantum computing, 6G and so on. The emphasis will be on making the US more competitive, rather than blackballing China. Actually, China's economic strength, the reforms in its financial sector will emerge as a strong magnet for Wall Street and US corporates who will push to moderate any hardline position.

Hope flows eternal, on either side

PREET AMOL SINGH

IF I had to name a few countries that I would want to visit in my life, Pakistan would be one of them. It is not that my ancestors lived there before the Partition, but the desire to visit the place where the founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak, was born. I heard the buglers sound the last post as Lord Mountbatten lowered the Union Jack from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The band played the National Anthem as Pandit Nehru hoisted the Tricolour and the cannon roared to salute the new leader of the country. Tears of joy blurred my vision and my heart was full of pride that I am a citizen of free India. But was it that simple for me to admit that I would now require a passport and a visa to visit

my native village and meet my childhood friends? Definitely not! reminisced 90-year-old Sher Singh with tears in his eyes. While the whole country was rejoicing, Punjab was witnessing the bloodshed of their near and dear ones.

In 2015, during a seminar organised by the Folklore Research Academy, Amritsar, I met progressive people from Pakistan who worked to strengthen India-Pak relations. The Pakistani delegation, headed by Karamat Ali, was received with open arms by the NGO with roars of 'Hind-Pak dosti zindabad' from both sides. The moment was encapsulated with love and emotions, and one could easily sense a shared pain of the Partition. The delegation was scheduled to remain with us for two days and I was

given the duty to accompany them to Qila Bazaar, Patiala, for shopping. What surprised me was that shopkeepers did not charge for their purchases or gave them handsome discounts after learning that they were from Pakistan.

Another incident that made us emotional was when we saw an unknown group of students heading towards the delegation to offer them sweets and welcoming them to India, in a restaurant where they were scheduled to have tea. One of the students even hugged a delegate, admitting how pained he was over his inability to visit his ancestral village near Lahore and pay obeisance at Nankana Sahib Gurdwara. 'Note down my address and contact number, you have to stay at my house in

Lahore,' the delegate replied.

These incidents resonate in my mind whenever tensions escalate between the two nations, diminishing the slim chance for many people in India and Pakistan to visit their native places. As the Kartarpur corridor observes its first anniversary, I strongly feel it would emerge as a luminous light for de-escalating tensions between the two nations, when virtually every avenue of people-to-people contact has been closed.

I recall a couplet by poet Muzaffar Razmi: 'Ye jab bhi dekha hai, taareeq ki nazron ne/Lamhon ne khata ki thi, sadiyon ne saza payi' (Much injustice has been seen in the saga of history/When for a mistake made in a moment, we are punished for centuries').

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India-US ties

Refer to 'Biden, Harris are in'; among the important agreements signed during the tenure of Trump, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and the recently concluded Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement are important. Diplomatic and strategic relations at sea, cyber security and space issues should be retained by both countries, being major defence partners. The Modi government should maintain its sovereign diplomatic policies in such a way that the US continues to be India's most reliable ally.

YUGAL KISHORE SHARMA, FARIDABAD

EC appointments

There is a need for immediate reforms in the Election Commission. The Chief Election Commissioner should be a Supreme Court judge and not a bureaucrat. Bureaucrats are unable to withstand pressure from the ruling party, the PM and ministers. The selection of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners should be more democratic and transparent. The commission has constantly been at loggerheads with political parties and powerful individuals

where proper perusal of cases in various courts of law is required. It has been taking illegal decisions under pressure from the ruling party. Further, the Prime Minister should not be allowed to make election speeches.

SC DHALL, ZIRAKPUR

Laxity has set in

The idiom Savdhanai hati, durgatna ghati perfectly fits the current Covid scenario. The present day-to-day activities and unlimited rush in market places, and that too without following preventive measures, give an impression that everything is well. Even the number of persons using masks is declining. It is in the interest of every individual/society to understand the gravity of the situation and follow the instructions strictly.

GOBIND AHUJA, CHANDIGARH

Celebrations can wait

It is frightening to observe how we have comfortably allowed the spirit of festivity to perambulate right in the middle of a pandemic. Developed nations are again witnessing a steep and sudden rise in Covid cases, whereas we in India have ensconced ourselves in a casual attitude. News of the third wave in the National Capital is not encouraging.

aging. What are we celebrating? We must think of fellow human beings around us with co-morbidities. A century ago, the world overcame the Spanish flu by adhering to simple preventive measures like wearing a mask, staying at home and social distancing. That's all what it took! We can emulate this now, too, and rejoice together, later.

BIMAL MARTIN, PALAMPUR

Cracker ban

It is a good decision by the administration of Chandigarh and some states to ban firecrackers. It was surprising that the ruling party itself requested to lift the ban as it would cause losses to those in this business. It seems to be worried about the losses to a minuscule of persons in the trade, which is not even their regular pursuit. It has forgotten the damage to the health of the majority if the ban is lifted.

PS BHATTI, CHANDIGARH

New trust laws

As per the Finance Act 2020, all existing charitable trusts have to get themselves re-registered with the IT department. The Income Tax Commissioner is authorised to grant them re-registration for five years only, or reject their application. Previously, registration

was permanent. The procedure for new trusts has been made even more cumbersome and time consuming. They will be given only provisional registration for three years. Six months before the expiry of this three-year provisional registration, the trust may apply for regular or permanent registration, which again will be for five years only. The new move will neither be beneficial for the government nor the charitable trusts, but for the IT staff and will breed more corruption.

VINAY KUMAR MALHOTRA, AMBALA CANTT

Gender inequality

Refer to 'Gender sensitivity'; in our democratic country, every woman has equal rights in terms of education, employment, social, economic and political leaderships. Despite all progress in art, literature, governance, science and technology, we have not been able to remove gender discrimination. Men still dominate women. Gender inequality fuels violence against women and results in power imbalance. Women should be treated with respect, bestowing on them equality and dignity as mothers and sisters. Both men and women are two sides of the coin of society.

ADITYA KAMBLE, CHENNAI

Services in dilemma over fiscal prudence



AMIT COWSHISH

RAHUL BEDI

EX-FINANCIAL ADVISER, ACQUISITION, MoD

SENIOR JOURNALIST

THE recent proposals by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) headed by General Bipin Rawat, India's newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), to manage the fiscal challenge posed by the 12-fold increase in defence pensions over the past two decades, have generated a heated debate among service personnel.

From the 2001-02 fiscal, when defence pensions were Rs 12,000 crore, constituting 16.91 per cent of the overall defence budget, they had risen to a whopping Rs 1,33,825 crore in the financial year 2020-21. This equals 28.39 per cent of the total annual defence outlay, posing serious concerns for the federal government struggling to shore up its finances.

Consequently, the DMA's proposals to counter the government's dire economic predicament by increasing the retirement age of military officers and concomitantly scaling down their pensions, have raised a veritable storm among service veterans. Smarting from the move by the CDS to reduce officers' messes and canteen stores department (CSD) outlets at all military stations, these retirees are venting their anger on social media, claiming that these latest moves are ill-advised, impracticable and unviable.

Official sources said the DMA has proposed that the retirement age of one, two and three-star service officers be increased by one to three years. Consequently, Colonel, Brigadier and Major General-level officers and their counterparts in the Navy and Air Force, would under the new scheme, retire at the age of 57, 58 and 59 years, respectively. Military personnel in logistics, medical, technical and other branches, however, will continue to superannuate at the age of 57, but presently, it is not known whether similar measures will apply to Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) who constitute the bulk of all service personnel.

According to the DMA proposal, only service personnel retiring after completing 35 years or more of service, would be eligible for full pension, which presently equals 50 per cent of the last drawn emoluments. But officers retiring with 31-35 years of service will get 37.5 per cent of their last pay, an amount that will drop to 30 per cent for those retiring after 26-30 years. Officers leaving after 20-25 years of employment will only receive a mere 25 per cent as pension.

The DMA is believed to have asked the services to 'process' the draft Government Sanction Letter (GSL) by November 10 for perusal by its secretary, General Rawat, appointed CDS on January 1, for a three-year tenure. Seemingly, the DMA appears not to have evaluated what impact these proposals would have on the morale of the armed forces. Many retired and serving officers concur that increasing the retirement age would not only block advancement in a pyramidal promotional structure, but the corresponding reduction in pension, if approved, might



TOUGH CALL: The appointment of General Rawat as the Chief of Defence Staff had given rise to hopes which seem to have been belied with the DMA plans.

also not lead to any major savings.

The proposed changes would also, without doubt, face protracted legal challenges as these are contrary to the accepted principle of one-rank-one-pension (OROP) and numerous legal rulings which emphasise that pensions are not a 'bounty' or 'gratuitous payment' subject to any government's will or pleasure, but a legally enforceable right.

In 1980, the Supreme Court too had ruled that dividing a homogeneous class of pensioners based on indiscernible rational principles amounted to 'arbitrariness' and violated Article 14 of the Indian Constitution that

guarantees equal protection to all under the rule of law. The proposed system of graded pensions for the armed forces would also fall foul of this fundamental principle, creating in turn, a legally untenable distinction between military and civilian pensioners, further complicating an already vexatious and emotive situation.

Moreover, the extant formula pegging pensions at 50% of the last pay drawn was adopted by the government years ago, following recommendations by the Sixth Central Pay Commission and cannot be changed merely by a DMA order, and would necessitate prior Cabinet approval.

However, at a juncture when the Indian military is locked in a stand-off with China's People's Liberation Army in eastern Ladakh, the Cabinet will need to think twice before sanctioning such a move which, apart from being of doubtful utility, also remains politically sensitive.

The categorised pension scheme will also be unfair to officers wanting to quit service due to blocked promotion prospects to seek alternative careers on Civvy Street. Many such personnel would be colonel-level officers who, on retirement would receive a paltry 25 per cent of their last drawn pay. If, on the other hand,

these officers decide to continue in service till becoming eligible for a higher pension, they will, doubtlessly have little or no motivation to give their best, and end up as disgruntled deadwood inside the system.

Extended service tenures will also skewer the youthful age profile of the armed forces, reducing which is one of the military's stated goals for greater operational efficiency. This is particularly so for the Army that is on near-permanent deployment on counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir and elsewhere, necessitating a younger officer profile.

For a change, however, the civilian bureaucracy in the Ministry of Defence (MoD)—pilloried for decades by the military for arbitrariness and insensitivity—cannot be blamed for the apparently flawed pension and age enhancement schemes, as both have sole-DMA ownership. The DMA was instituted in December 2019 following decades of lobbying by the military and the strategic community which had collectively asserted that no meaningful defence reforms were possible without a CDS.

They reasoned that only a CDS could initiate synergy among the armed forces, optimise scarce financial and human resources, and provide single-point military advice to the government. But now that their wish has materialised with General Rawat's appointment, their hopes appear belied as multiple DMA measures have been adversely received by them.

In the end, nothing hurts the military more than being disappointed by the institution it had fiercely demanded and thought would be indispensable in diluting oppressive 'civilian control' over the armed forces.

Timely shot in the arm for India-Nepal ties



MANJEET PURI

FORMER AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL

ARMY Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane's recent visit to Nepal was the first formal high-level tour from India to the neighbouring country in nearly a year. While the Covid-19 pandemic played a role in this prolonged 'social distancing', political actions by Nepal in the foregone months had contributed to the 'chill'.

India-Nepal ties are characterised by a *roti-beti* relationship and institutional bonds, including an open border. Of special value are the linkages between the Indian Army and the Nepal Army, which is a key national institution in Nepal. The visit of the Army Chief was part of the long-standing and customary friendship between the Indian and Nepal armies and allowed for renewing these strong bonds.

India-Nepal Army ties are epitomised by a unique tradition of conferment of the honorary rank of General to each other's Chiefs and General Naravane received his insignias from the President of Nepal during the visit. He also called on Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, who is also the country's Defence Minister. Furthermore, he addressed the Nepal Army Command and Staff College and did the ceremonial honours by laying a wreath at Bir Smarak.

Cooperation between the two armies encompasses nearly all facets of military activity. Indian equipment is widely in use in the Nepal Army with further assistance being provided in its modernisation efforts. Indian training facilities are regularly made available to the Nepalis along with



BILATERAL BOOST: Army Chief General Naravane's visit to Nepal has shown that both countries are interested in finding a way to resume regular exchanges.

holding of joint military exercises, assistance in times of disasters, participating in adventure activities and hosting bilateral visits. Officers from the Nepal Army attend training courses in Indian Army institutions, including the prestigious NDC course which was also attended some years back by the present Chief of the Nepal Army, General Purna Chandra Thapa. The Indo-Nepal battalion-level joint military exercise Surya Kiran is conducted alternately in India and Nepal. The 14th Surya Kiran exercise was held in December 2019 in Nepal.

During his visit, General Naravane gifted medical equipment for two field hospitals of the Nepali Army. The equipment included X-ray

machines, computed radiography systems, ICU ventilators, video endoscopy units, anaesthesia machines, laboratory equipment and ambulances. He also gifted additional ventilators to the Nepal Army as Covid-related assistance. Earlier in July, the Indian Army had provided ventilators to the Nepal Army. Since the pandemic started, the Government of India has provided about 25 tonnes of essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment.

Another unique feature of the India-Nepal defence cooperation are the Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army that are raised also by recruitment from Nepal. Currently, about 32,000 Gorkha soldiers from Nepal are serv-

ing in the Indian Army. Moreover, an estimated 2 lakh veterans of the Indian Army are settled in Nepal and receive their pensions from the Indian embassy in Kathmandu and its two pension paying offices in Pokhara and Dharan. There are also 22 District Soldier Boards in Nepal which cater to the welfare needs of ex-Gorkha soldiers and their families. Interestingly, Nepalis serve as officers in the Indian Army going through the same recruitment process as is the case for Indian citizens. A most interesting case in recent years is that of a Nepali family where one brother rose to the rank of Lieutenant General in the Nepal Army while another served as Major General in the Indian Army.

The civilisational closeness between India and Nepal has many positives but also comes with its own challenges. A critical one is identity politics in Nepal with anti-India positioning being resorted to by political leaders of all persuasions. Playing of the China card vis-a-vis India has also been part of the Nepali political playbook. In recent years, with a large proportion of its population overseas (and not just in India), Nepal has benefitted from huge remittance inflows and experienced globalisation giving rise to a feeling of expanded options, especially beyond India, by far the biggest economic and societal partner of Nepal.

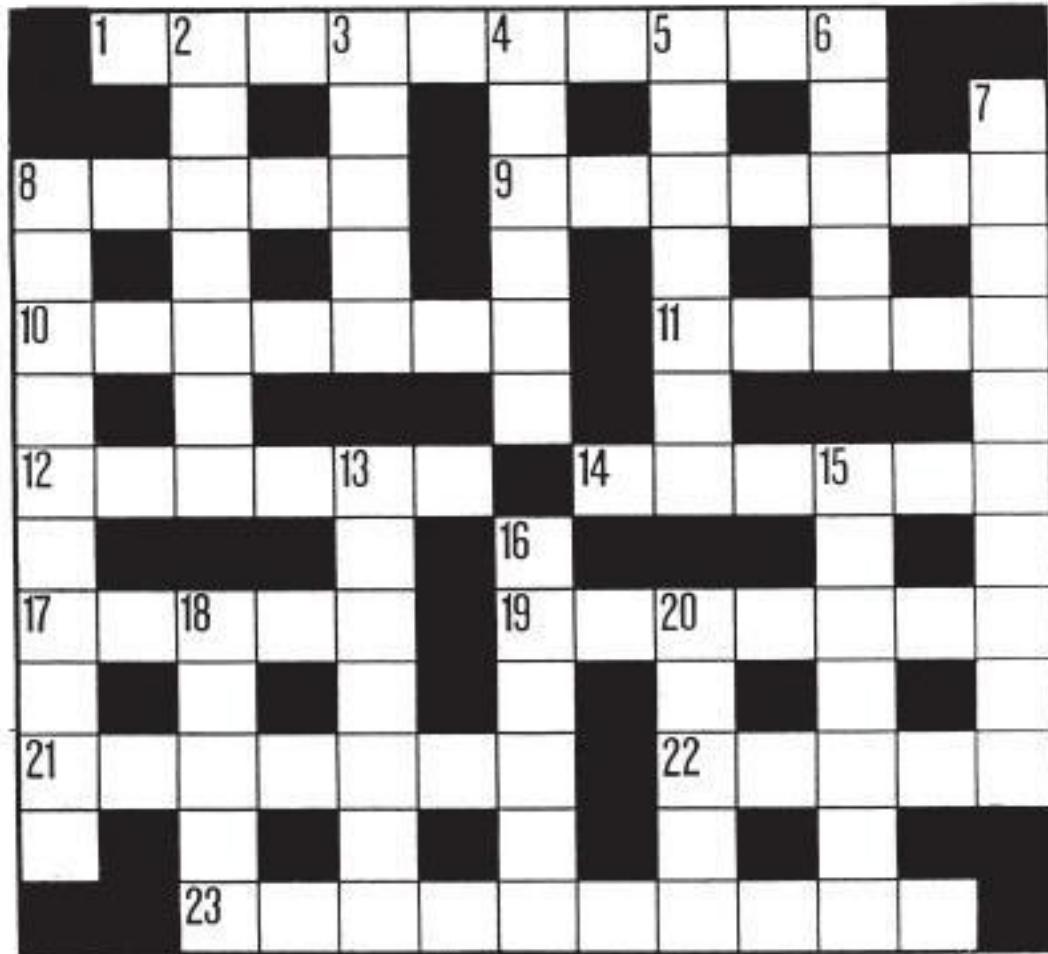
In 2018, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the Nepal Communist Party came to power riding the crest of shrill nationalism with a clear anti-India undertone. However, as 2020 unfolded and the world grappled with Covid,

factional coalition dharma within the party started coming apart and whipping up anti-India sentiment, as usual, became the stratagem of choice for the Prime Minister to hold on to his position. This manifested itself in the release of a new map of Nepal that egregiously included Indian territories in Uttarakhand. Adding fuel to the fire were verbal articulations in Nepal at the highest-level targeting India.

All in all, Nepalese actions could only be interpreted as pokes in the eye for India. They were also alienating their best friends, the people of India. At the government level, there was little option but to allow some 'cooling'. However, in the past few months, since August 15, when the Nepali PM called Prime Minister Modi and offered good wishes on India's Independence Day and followed it up with a Dussehra greeting, with a card showing a map of Nepal without the recently claimed territories, the augury appears positive.

Nepal's gesture to invite the Indian Army Chief and India's decision to accept the invitation indicate mutual interest in finding a way to resume regular exchanges. In the extant circumstances, the visit of the Army Chief was bound to and did receive an unusual level of media attention in both countries (as did an informal visit by the R&AW Chief last month). It is good that the visit has been widely welcomed in Nepal. Hopefully, it will pave the way for more frequent higher-level engagements between India and Nepal soon. India-Nepal ties are such that there should be no distancing between the two countries.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Brahm, 4 Abject, 9 Shannon, 10 Ambit, 11 Cress, 12 In store, 13 Off the shelf, 18 Curator, 20 Mecca, 22 Treat, 23 Cutback, 24 Helmet, 25 Crater.

Down: 1 Bisect, 2 Adage, 3 Mind-set, 5 Brass, 6 Embroil, 7 Totter, 8 Inside track, 14 For real, 15 Hamster, 16 Scotch, 17 Hanker, 19 Title, 21 Craft.

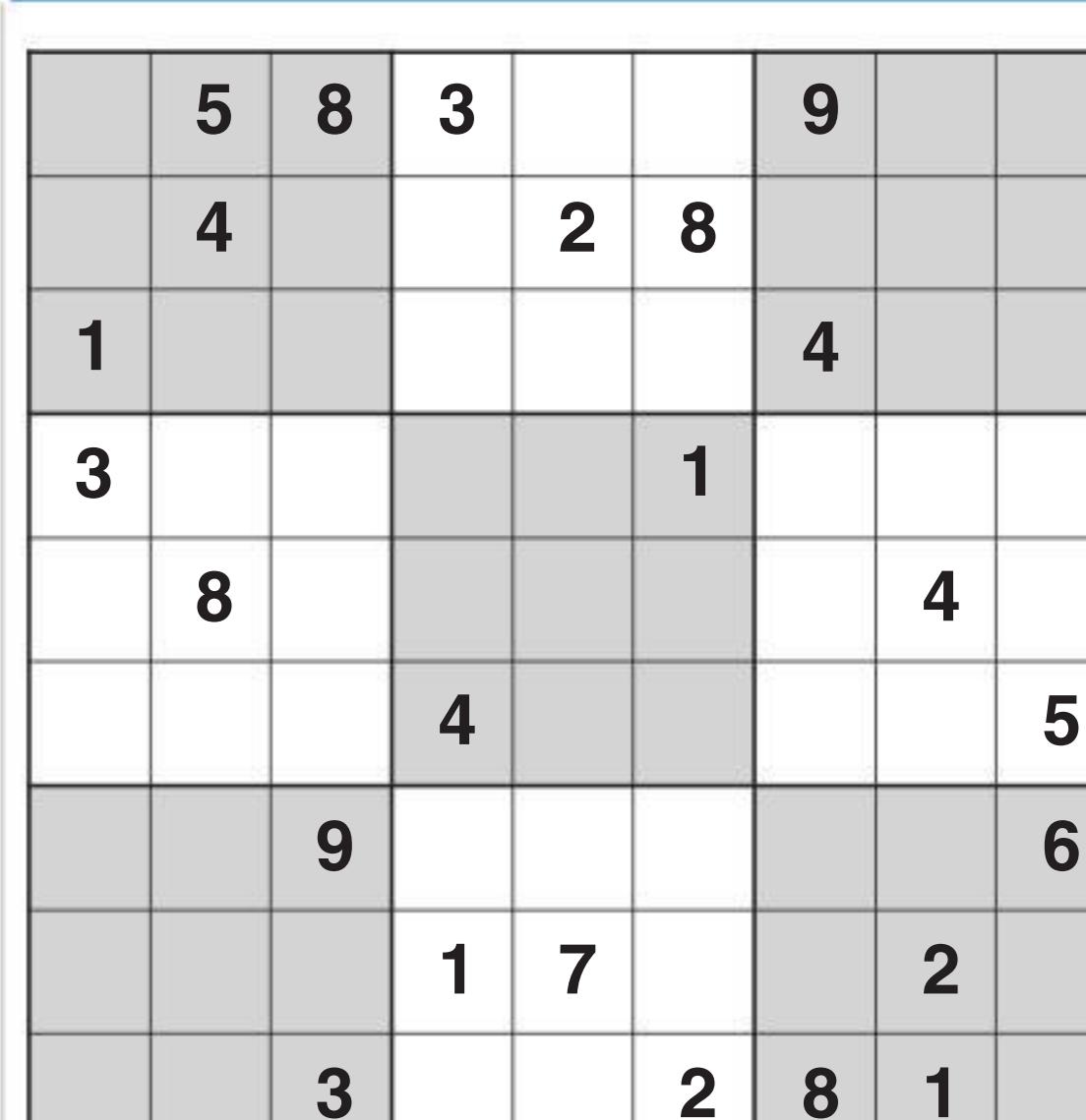
CROSS

- 1 Short sleep (5,5)
- 8 Move majestically (5)
- 9 Withdraw (7)
- 10 Bring to light (7)
- 11 Consecrate (5)
- 12 Begin again (6)
- 14 One of a team (6)
- 17 Deceived (5)
- 19 Description of event (7)
- 21 Do away with (7)
- 22 Approximate (5)
- 23 Shared equally (5-5)

DOWN

- 2 Unity (7)
- 3 Long thin candle (5)
- 4 Estimable (6)
- 5 Striking (7)
- 6 Form (5)
- 7 Without interruption (2,1,7)
- 8 Fair bargain (6,4)
- 13 The diaphragm (7)
- 15 Scent of wine (7)
- 16 Without due consideration (6)
- 18 Invulnerable (5)
- 20 Short-legged breed of dog (5)

SU DO KU



HARD

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 10, 2020, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Kartik Shaka	19
■ Kartik Parvishte	25
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 10, up to 3.23 am	
■ Indra Yoga up to 10.44 pm	
■ Magha Nakshatra up to 7.56 am	
■ Purvaphalguni Nakshatra up to 6.28 am	
■ Moon in Leo sign	
■ Gandmool up to 7:56 am	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 17:28 HRS
SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 06:46 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	28	12
New Delhi	28	11
Amritsar	28	12
Bathinda	30	12
Jalandhar	28	11
Ludhiana	28	12
Bhiwani	28	11
Hisar	30	10
Sirsia	30	14
Dharamsala	21	09
Manali	18	01
Shimla	20	08
Srinagar	18	-02
Jammu	28	12
Kargil	11	-01
Leh	10	-10
Dehradun	26	11
Mussorie	18</td	

Swami Dayanand Post Graduate Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, PGIMS, Rohtak
ADMISSION NOTICE

Online applications via E-mail (address2020@yahoo.com) are invited for filling of vacant/left over seats of B. Pharm.-1st year for the session 2020-21. Last date of applications is 15.11.2020. For complete details: Refer to websites: www.uhsr.ac.in and www.pgimsrohtak.ac.in

PRDH/83695

GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HISAR
(ESTABLISHED BY STATE LEGISLATURE ACT 17 OF 1995)

'A' GRADE NAAC ACCREDITED

ADMISSION NOTICE**B.Ed. - 2 Year (Regular) PROGRAMME — 2020-21**

The University invites online application forms for admission to B.Ed.-2 Year (Regular) programme in all Colleges of Education affiliated to Guru Jambeshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar w.e.f. 16.11.2020 through University Portal www.gjstu.ac.in. Last date for submission of online application form is 07.12.2020 for Aided College and 24.12.2020 for SFS Colleges. Prospectus containing all information regarding eligibility, admission schedule, procedure to apply and other information will be available on the University Portal w.e.f. 16.11.2020.

PRDH/83695

REGISTRAR
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
1.	Setting up Temporary Water Proof Night Shelters at Ten different places /locations for Homeless people within U.T. Chandigarh Est Cost: Rs. 1,18,53,000/- EMD: Rs. 2,37,060/- Time Limit: 3 Months	07.11.2020 To 17.11.2020 up to 12:00 noon	17.11.2020 12:00 noon

Note : All other terms & conditions and complete DNT are uploaded on the website <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

Roads Division No. 3, Room No. 311, M.C. Chandigarh Ph. : 0172-5021482

**AICRP ON FMD, NETWORKING UNIT,
ANIMAL HEALTH INSTITUTE,
LADOWALI ROAD JALANDHAR
WALK-IN INTERVIEW**

A walk-in-interview will be held at Animal Health Institute, Ladowali Road, Jalandhar to select one temporary position of YP-II (Young Professional) on contractual basis under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Foot and Mouth Disease (ICAR).

Project	Post, Emoluments	Age	No. of Post	Qualifications	Date and Time of Interview
Seromonitoring of pre and post vaccinal immunity against FMD virus during 2020-21	YP-II, Rs. 25,000/- per month (consolidated)	21-45 years	01	Masters degree in discipline: Microbiology/Biotechnology/Biochemistry or life Sciences. Experience in handling biological samples, knowledge of ELISA (Enzyme linked Immunosorbent Assay) and working knowledge of computer desirable	19 November 2020, at 10 A.M.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The position is purely temporary on contractual basis & for a period up to March 2021 or completion of project whatever is earlier.
2. The institute will hold no responsibility for payment of salary or to give any regular appointment after expiry/termination of the project.
3. No TA/DA will be provided for attending the interview.
4. Desirous applicants should bring one set of Bio-data, original and attested copies of Educational qualification certificates (provisional degree certificate will not be entertained). Experience certificate, if any in original and a latest passport size photograph at the time of interview.
5. NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the employer, if employed.
6. The contract may be cancelled in lieu of lack of performance and technical expertise.
7. The decision of the Officer Incharge, AICRP on FMD, Animal Health Institute, Ladowali Road Jalandhar will be final in selection.

Sd/- Officer Incharge AICRP on FMD, Animal Health Institute, Ladowali Road, JALANDHAR. nrrdd2001@gmail.com

DI-12916

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION
KULLU, DISTT. KULLU, (H.P.)**
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The sealed tender for the monthly rented cafeteria Building at Bhuntar for a period of 3 (Three years) are invited on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh for the following work from the approved and eligible persons, so as to reach in this office on or before 25.11.2020 upto 11:00 A.M. and the tender will be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of intending person or their authorized representatives. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment (non refundable) upto 05:00 P.M. on 21.11.2020. The earnest money in the shape of national saving certificate / F.D.R. / Time deposit account in any of the Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of District Tourism Development Officer, Kullu must accompany with each tender. Conditional tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The undersigned reserve the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.

Sr. No.	Name of Property : Way Side Amenities (WSA) monthly rental cafeteria building at Bhuntar	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Form
1.	Restaurant /café, Kitchen, Washrooms (Ladies & gents), Store room, Lobby, Manager Office, Reception & Ground floor Parking area (Wayside Amenity) at Bhuntar, Tehsil Bhuntar, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)	1. Rs. 61,725/- (per month with maintenance by the owner) 2. Rs. 56,977/- (per month without maintenance)	1300/-	350/-

1. The intending persons shall produce their registration / renewal / Income PAN / GST and earnest.

District Tourism Development Officer, Distt. Kullu, H.P.
E-mail : dtdomanali@gmail.com
Ph : 01902-226221

Punjab Genco Limited
(CIN: U40108CH1998SGC21134)
Solar Passive Complex

Plot No.1 & 2, Sector 33-D, Chandigarh-160034,
Tel.: 91-172-2663328, FAX: 91-172-2646384
Email:-pgl@peda.gov.in, gencopunjab@yahoo.in

Tender Notice

E-Tender No. – PEDA/PGL/2020-21/26

Director PGL (Punjab Genco Ltd.), Chandigarh invites e-tenders from eligible firms for Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 15 numbers of Bio-CNG/CBG Storage Cascades, each cascade of 3000 WL consist of 40 Cylinders having 75 WL capacity each at High Rate Bio-Methanation Power Generation & CBG/CO2 Plant at Haibowal Dairy Complex, Ludhiana, Punjab.

The prospective bidders are requested to submit bids as per schedule given below:-

Bid document	E-bid Publish date	Last date and time for submission of e-bid	Date and time of opening of Techno-commercial e-bids
www.eproc.punjab.gov.in	10 th November 2020	1 st December 2020 by 4.00 PM	2 nd December 2020 at 03.00 PM
Cost of Bid document			Non-refundable Bid Document fee Rs. 2000/- through online mode only to be paid at the time of uploading of bid.
E-Processing Fee			Non-refundable e-processing fee as applicable through online mode only.
Earnest Money Deposit			Earnest Money @ Rs. 3,50,000/- (Three Lac Fifty Thousand only) shall be deposited through online mode only.

1. The detailed terms and conditions, scope of work, eligibility criteria, Performance Guarantee and place of submission of Bids etc., are given in the bid document, which is being uploaded and can be downloaded from the www.eproc.punjab.gov.in or www.peda.gov.in.
2. Prospective bidders are requested to remain updated for any kind of notices/updates/amendments/modifications/clarifications etc. to the bid document conditions in the website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in only. No separate notifications will be given for such notices/updates/amendments/modifications/clarifications etc. in the print media (press) or individually.
3. For participating in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID and Password. Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process flow, please contact PEDDA at 9815602615, 9876173555, 8699007080, 9815711786, 8558870510, 0172-2663328, 2663382, 2646384 or Helpdesk number for portal 0172-2791326/2791226.
4. Technical / Financial Bid Forms in bid document are for reference purposes only. Bidders have to download the Bid Forms from e-tendering website (www.eproc.punjab.gov.in) only after payment of bid document cost.
5. Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on the website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. No separate notice shall be published in press.
6. PGL, reserve the right to increase or decrease the quantity of Bio-CNG Storage Cascades to be procured.
7. PGL, reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the bids and annul the entire bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.

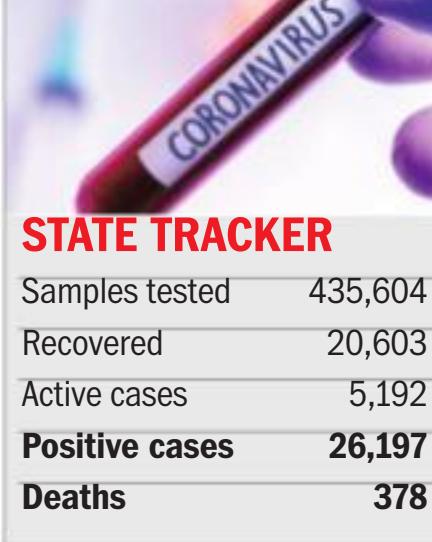
DIRECTOR

711 new cases; 7 succumb to virus**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 9

The state today reported a record 711 new cases of Covid, taking the tally of the infected persons to 26,197. At least seven persons succumbed to the deadly infection. The death toll now stands at 378.

While two persons died in Kullu, one person each succumbed to the infection in Kangra, Kullu, Kinnaur, Solan and Bilaspur. The high-

**STATE TRACKER**

Samples tested	435,604
Recovered	20,603
Active cases	5,192
Positive cases	26,197
Deaths	378

est number of 204 cases was reported in Shimla, Kullu

(121), Mandi (114), Hamirpur (61), Kangra (50), Solan (41), Bilaspur (29), Chamba (22), and Kinnaur (12).

21 jail inmates infected

Hamirpur: As many as 21 inmates of the district jail, tested positive for coronavirus in Hamirpur district on Monday. Dr Archana Soni, Chief Medical Officer, said that these persons had come in contact with infected persons.

SUBHASH RAJTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

9

NOVEMBER

2020

9

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, is an institute of National importance (INI) established by the Act of Parliament PGIMER. Chandigarh provides patient care services (both outdoor and inpatients), performs the function of a University with teaching staff and students residing in the campus as well as functions as a major research facility. More than one lakh people and 2500 Motorized vehicles come to the Institute from outside every day. Sr. Administrative Officer (Security), PGIMER, Chandigarh on behalf of Director, PGIMER, invites (EOI) from reputed, eligible and qualified Security Agencies for Outsourcing of 24x7 Integrated Security services in favour of PGIMER, Chandigarh.

Those interested may apply as per details available on Institute website www.pgimer.edu.in. EOI be sent in a sealed envelope superscribed "Expression of Interest for Outsourcing of Security Services", so as to reach the Office of Sr. Administrative Officer (Security), Kairon Block, PGIMER, Chandigarh on or before 25.11.2020.

DI-13507

Administrative Officer (E-II)

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PWD B&R BRANCH
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS

Bid No. 18 DATED 09.11.2020

Dept. inviting work- Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, PWD B&R, Amritsar.

Brief of work- Alteration/Renovation of Bhagwan Valmiki Ji Govt. I.T.I., Ram Tirath in District Amritsar (Punjab).

Area of Work- Amritsar.

Date of Opening of Bid- 25.11.2020.

For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting Tender please see to

Punjab.gov.in www.eprocpcbpd.gov.in

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

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Construction Division No. 2,
PWD B&R, Amritsar.

DPR/Pb/101670

ਦੀ ਅਸਨਾਲਾ ਸਹਿਬਾਨੀ ਥੱਡ ਮਿੱਲਜ਼ ਕਿਮ: ਅਸਨਾਲਾ ਦੇ ਬੋਰਡ ਆਫ ਭਾਈਏਕਟਰਨ ਦੀ ਚੇਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮਿੱਲ ਵੱਲ
ਤਿਆਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਤੁਲਵੀਜ਼ੀ ਜੇਨਾ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

ਦੀ ਅਸਨਾਲਾ ਸਹਿਬਾਨੀ ਥੱਡ ਨਿਕਲ ਕਿਮ: ਅਸਨਾਲਾ ਦੇ ਬੋਰਡ ਆਫ ਭਾਈਏਕਟਰਨ ਦੀ ਚੇਣ
ਬੋਰਡ ਆਫ ਭਾਈਏਕਟਰਨ ਦੀ ਚੇਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮਿੱਲ ਵੱਲ
ਤਿਆਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਤੁਲਵੀਜ਼ੀ ਜੇਨਾ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

ਦੀ ਅਸਨਾਲਾ ਸਹਿਬਾਨੀ ਥੱਡ ਨਿਕਲ ਕਿਮ: ਅਸਨਾਲਾ ਦੇ ਬੋਰਡ ਆਫ ਭਾਈਏਕਟਰਨ ਦੀ ਚੇਣ
ਬੋਰਡ ਆਫ ਭਾਈਏਕਟਰਨ ਦੀ ਚੇਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮਿੱਲ ਵੱਲ
ਤਿਆਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਤੁਲਵੀਜ਼ੀ ਜੇਨਾ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

ਪਿਛੇ/ 06.11.2020

ਸਲੱਹਦਾਰ: ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਪ੍ਰੈਸ਼ਟ ਆਰਾਮ, ਦੀ ਸਲੱਹਦਾਰ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ

ਸਾਹਮਣੇ: ਸਲੱਹਦਾਰ

ਪਿਛੇ/ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ: ਸਲੱਹਦਾਰ, ਸਾਹਮਣੇ, ਦੀ ਸਲੱਹਦਾਰ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ

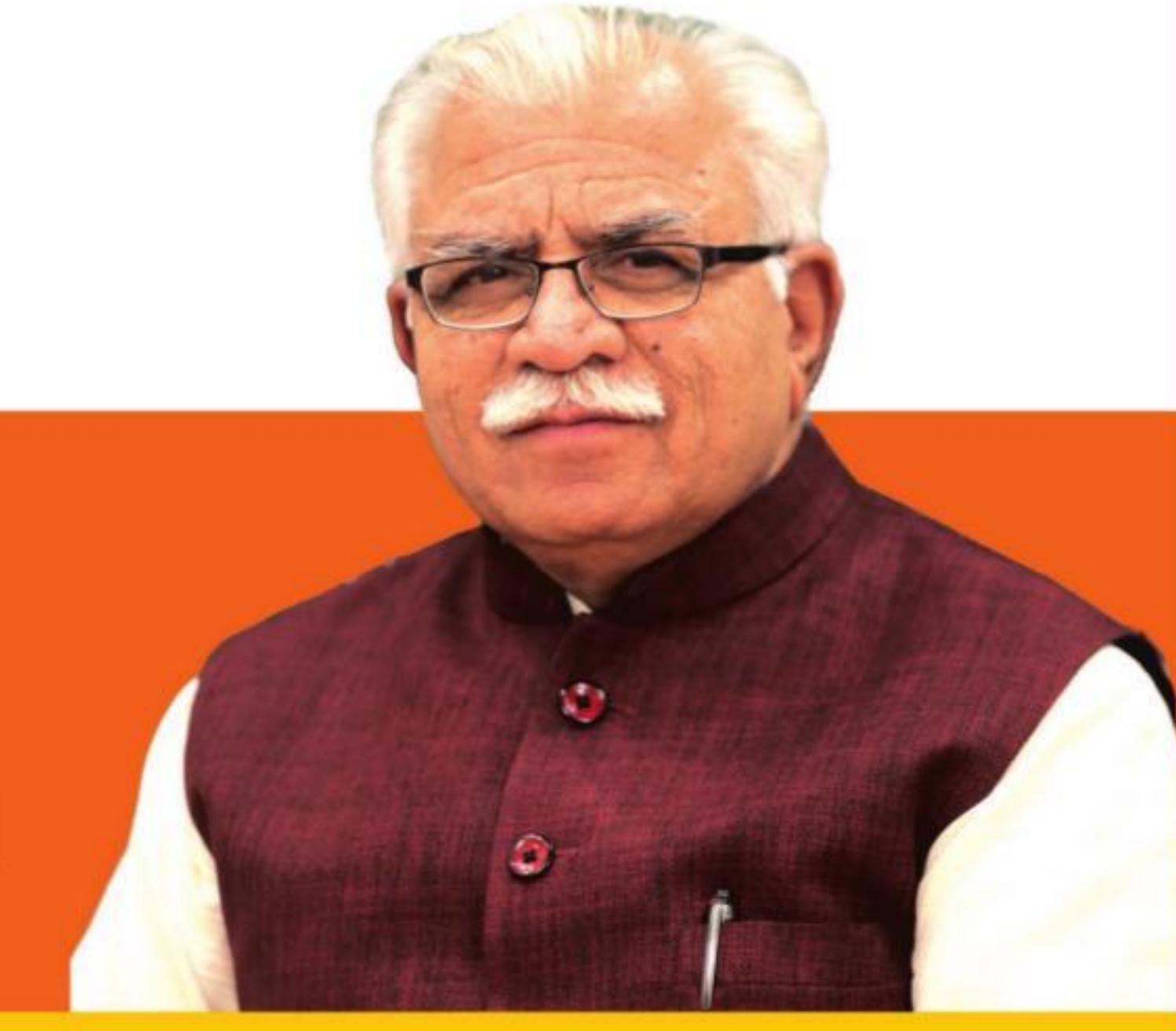
ਪਿਛੇ



Govt. of Haryana



Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal

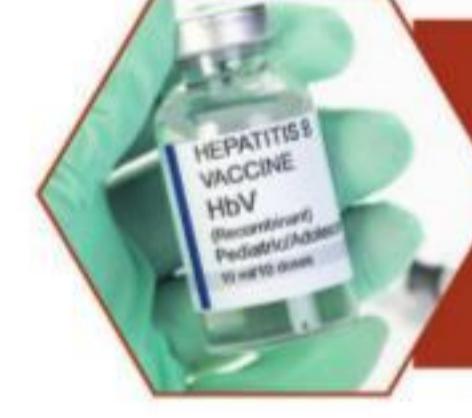


Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Healthy Haryana, Empowered Haryana



Haryana First in the Country
in Anaemia Free India campaign



Haryana First State
in the Country to provide free
Hepatitis-B and C medicines

More than **500 medicines**
available for free
in Government Hospitals



Free operations for
228 surgeries, 70 types of tests and
21 types of dental surgeries & treatments



e-Sanjeevani OPD
for Free Medical
Facility at Home



For treatment at home,
12 medical mobile units are
running in the State and
aiming to increase it to 60 units

428 ambulances available at 24x7
27 advanced life support ambulances
also available for timely
treatment of the people of State



New initiative of
Free Single Donor Platelets
for dengue patients



Establishment of 6 new medical
colleges in progress and 3 other
medical colleges approved by
the Government in the State



Appointment of
954 new Doctors and
206 AYUSH Voluntary Physicians

Plasma banks opened for Covid-19
patients in Gurugram, Faridabad,
Rohtak, Panchkula and Karnal



The State Government
sets a maximum cost for corona
treatment at all private hospitals



Let's fight together against Coronavirus

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in | [@Cmohry](https://twitter.com/Cmohry) [@DiprHaryana](https://twitter.com/DiprHaryana)

MP bypoll results a battle of prestige for Scindia, Nath

KV PRASAD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9
The results of the Madhya Pradesh bypoll will be watched with interest as a battle of prestige will be fought between former Chief Minister Kamal Nath and his challenger Jyotiraditya Scindia who is now with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).



KAMAL NATH



JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

The outcome in MP should make a difference to the political careers of the two leaders from the state — Nath and Scindia — both of whom were together in the Congress till recently. Scindia joined the Congress in 2001, stepping into the shoes of his father Madhavrao Scindia who was killed in a plane crash.

Since then, the younger Scindia attempted to carve out a place for himself in national politics. After representing the Guna Lok Sabha constituency since 2001, he lost the 2019 polls to the BJP, a party he joined this year.

The crossing over was more a message to the Congress of his unhappiness in ignoring his claims in the party or a larger role in MP. Belonging to the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior, there is more at stake for Scindia since a majority of 25 MLAs considered loyal to him resigned from the Kamal Nath government leading to its fall and the bypoll. A majority of these seats fall in the Gwalior-Chambal region where the Scindias traditionally had a major say.

On the other side, Kamal Nath who got the job of the Chief Minister will be eager to prove that he still has the fire in him to deliver a decisive blow to the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, which requires just nine MLAs to obtain a simple majority of 116 in a House of 230. After the exit of his 25 legislators, the Congress tally in the House stands at 87 with four Independents, two BSP and one SP legislator making up the rest.

They have transcended local and state issues to become a

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9
Amid encouraging exit poll predictions favouring RJD's Tejashwi Yadav-led mahagathbandhan, key state Bihar is set to deliver tomorrow a verdict on what is being called the test of the "mood of the nation".

The election is the first test for NDA-led Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi since the Covid-19 pandemic struck. It also tests the political worth of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar fighting his most difficult elections in the backdrop of 15-year anti-incumbency and gauntlet thrown down by LJP president Chirag Paswan.

They have transcended local and state issues to become a

Bihar set for D-day amid predictions of change



VERDICT DAY: Workers prepare 'laddoos' on the eve of counting day, in Patna on Monday. PTI

Lots at stake for Nitish, Tejashwi

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NDA's handling of migrant crisis at test

measure of national sentiments, political observers say.

Apart from the Covid-induced stresses like migrant, economic and job crisis, Bihar also polled amid the debate surrounding the contentious CAA, which many believe is one of the reasons for the BJP's loss in Delhi.

Launching its characteristic poll blitzkrieg, the BJP gave these elections all it had with PM Modi and party president JP Nadda leading from the front, making it more about Modi and BJP than Nitish Kumar, who remained bogged down by his own difficulties, includ-

ing Chirag's constant nagging. Political observers say Chirag could not have pulled such a big stunt without the BJP's blessings.

However, despite Chirag's constant needling, the BJP threw its weight behind Nitish. PM Modi, who addressed around 12 rallies and fired all ammo in BJP's arsenal.

To divert attention from the 15-year incumbency faced by Nitish, the BJP made these elections into "Modi versus the rest" with some heavy dosage of nationalism and its anti-national rivals.

Meanwhile, apart from decades-long political worth of Nitish, the day will also test Nadda as the BJP chief, who is yet to register an electoral victory for his party since he became the president.

If exit polls hold true, Chirag may fulfil father's wish

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

If the actual results of the Bihar elections mirror the exit poll projections, Chirag Paswan of the LJP may be able to fulfil his late father Ram Vilas Paswan's long-standing dream of unseating incumbent Nitish Kumar from power in the state.

Senior Paswan, who had died just a few days before the Bihar poll, was known to have kept grudge against Kumar since the second Assembly poll in the state that took place in November 2005.

Kumar, the NDA face at that time, with the help of pharmaceutical baron King Mahendra, managed to split 17 MLAs of the LJP. Since then, Ram Vilas always sided with the parties that opposed Kumar. In 2010, the LJP contested the election in alliance with Lalu Prasad's RJD. In 2015, when Kumar switched sides to join hands with Lalu Prasad against the BJP, the LJP went with the saffron party. But on both occasions he failed to damage wily Nitish Kumar.

Now, his son Chirag decided to go alone.

Reasons for the party's over-

At stake today: Rahul's mettle, Cong's might

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

Much at stake in Bihar tomorrow, the Congress is leaving nothing to chance.

The party has dispatched AICC general secretary and Bihar poll coordination incharge Randeep Singh Surjewala and state screening committee chief Avinash Pande to Patna to ensure its rank and file stays together, extraneous factors don't weigh and election results are closely monitored.

Surjewala and Pande had delivered in Rajasthan where they successfully thwarted an attempted coup by former deputy CM Sachin Pilot, who eventually conceded. He will have the same job tomorrow, should election results throw up a hung Assembly.

Caught napping on many occasions in the past, including in Goa, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, where the BJP managed to break its ranks, the Congress wants to stay in the game and even avoid of it this time.

"With the BJP's history of poaching, we do not want to leave anything to chance," Congress veteran and working committee member Tariq Anwar said today.

Reasons for the party's over-



Randeep Singh Surjewala in Patna to ensure its rank and file stay together

preparedness are not far to seek. At stake tomorrow is not just Congress' electoral might, but also former chief Rahul Gandhi's political mettle.

Rahul was the sole visible star campaigner for the Congress in the Bihar elections, appearing alongside RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and urging voters to factor in economy, joblessness and farm distress while casting the ballot.

Tomorrow is Rahul's chance to show he can deliver alone.

Party chief Sonia Gandhi is awaiting this outcome not just for Congress' own revival, but also for snubbing an attempted intra-party challenge to the party's Gandhi family by 23 leaders, who sought elections to party posts.

15th finance panel submits report

NEW DELHI: The 15th Finance Commission, chaired by NK Singh, on Monday submitted its report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind. The report titled 'Finance Commission in Covid Times' was submitted by Singh along with commission members Ajay Narayan Jha, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri and Ramesh Chand. Last year, the panel had submitted its report for 2020-21. PTI

CBI books MP firm in ₹105-cr fraud case

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered an FIR against Madhya Pradesh-based firm Narayan Niriyat and its director Kailash Chand Garg for allegedly cheating a UCO Bank-led consortium of over Rs 105 crore, officials said on Monday. In the FIR, it is alleged that from 2011 to 2013, the company availed credit facilities to the tune of over Rs 110 crore from a consortium of banks consisting of UCO Bank, Corporation Bank and Punjab National Bank. TNS

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India bid to expand alternative supply chain with Japan, Oz

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9
India is keen on expanding its current conversations with Japan and Australia on a proposed supply-chain partnership to include other countries in the region.

The initiative is aimed at minimising the adverse effects of walking out of a regional free-trade agreement that includes Australia and Japan and over a dozen other countries, besides China.

India is proposing that some ASEAN countries can be added to the India-Australia-Japan discussions on China-free supply chains, said sources here. The proposal comes against the

AIMS TO COUNTER CHINA

- The initiative is aimed at minimising the adverse effects of walking out of a regional free-trade agreement that includes Australia and Japan and over a dozen other countries, besides China
- The RCEP includes countries with which India would like to strike deeper economic partnerships to improve its standing and marginalise China

backdrop of these very two countries planning to launch a regional economic cooperation partnership (RECP) framework pact this Sunday in partnership with China, South Korea, New Zealand and 10 countries of the ASEAN bloc.

The 15 Asia-Pacific countries, barring India, aim to ink the RCEP on November 15 to set up an economic bloc equal to third of the global GDP and population.

India will be on the sidelines when this agreement will be struck, but its close ally Japan will sign its first FTA that includes China and South Korea. As this development will be a setback to India's zero sum game with China, sources said recent diplomatic talks plan to expand the ambit of India-Japan-Australia negotiations from the present government-to-government level to the industry and academia of these countries.

India, US ties to be more comprehensive: Ex-envoy

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

Former officials with the Bush and Obama administrations as well as a former chief of the influential House Foreign Affairs Committee on Monday said America's ties with India would become more broad-based, including in the trade sector that had been reduced to a "transactional relationship".

Recalling that in 2006, US President-elect Joe Biden had hoped that by 2020 India and the US would be close allies, Daniel Friedman, former US Special Envoy to Af-Pak felt the Biden administration would continue to place a very high priority on continuing to strengthen the



Joe Biden, President-elect

US-India ties by addressing global challenges together, especially in South Asia.

They will align more closely on climate change, counter-terrorism and defence, besides moving from a transactional relationship on trade to a broader and deeper partnership,

he said at a webinar organised by the All-India Management Association with the US-based Covington and Burling LLP.—TNS

Surya moves privilege motion against WB cops

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9
BJP MP Tejasvi Surya today moved a Breach of Privilege Motion with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against top police officials in Kolkata and Howrah for "manhandling, assaulting and obstructing him and two others from performing their duties as MPs".

Addressing the media, Surya said he requested the Speaker that the police officials "whose actions amounted to assault and attempt to murder be summoned before the Parliamentary Committee on Privileges".

"The Speaker assured he would look into the matter and forward the complaint to the Privileges Committee of Parliament," said Surya.—TNS

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