



# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 140 NO. 361 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

EMERGENCY VACCINATION  
BEGINS IN WUHAN WORLD

TATA SONS TO ACQUIRE 32.67% ADDL  
STAKE IN AIRASIA INDIA BUSINESS

PAK HAS BECOME PAWN IN CHINA  
POLICY: IAF CHIEF BACK PAGE



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

## New strain reaches India, 6 UK returnees +ve

Samples of Dec 9-22 flyers to be genome sequenced | Centre tells states to consider night curfew

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29**  
India today became the 14th country to confirm the presence of a new and more infectious strain of the Covid-19 virus with six persons who returned from the UK between December 21 and 23 testing positive. The samples of all international passengers who arrived between December 9 and 22 and tested positive will be subjected to genome sequencing to detect the mutant strain.

### Govt: Vaccines effective against mutated strain

The Union Health Ministry said the six persons were in isolation, their contacts had been quarantined and contact-tracing was in progress. In all, 33,000 passengers from the UK disembarked across Indian airports between November 25 and December 23. Of them, 114 have been found positive and their samples had been sent for genome sequencing, said officials. "This is an ongoing process," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said today as India stepped up surveillance for virus mutations.

The 5 per cent random samples from Covid-positive people per state (new cases

detected since November 25) which the government will test for mutations will include flyers from nations other than the UK as the strain is now widespread.

In good news, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister K Vijay Raghavan said the current vaccines would work against the variant and there was no evidence to the contrary. "The virus variants are not sufficient to make the vaccines ineffective," said Raghavan, advising "extraordinary caution as the mutant was 70 per cent more infectious".

Most of the tracked 30,000 UK returnees came between December 21 midnight and December 23. The 28-day tracking period — beginning November 25 — was adopted to be on the safer side as the virus incubation time is 14 days, Bhushan said.

The government asked people to maintain extreme caution through winters and New Year festivities with NITI Aayog Member (Health) VK Paul saying the Centre had advised the states to consider night curfews to prevent overcrowding. "The parties must be avoided as these can turn into super-spreading events," Paul said as India's daily cases dropped to 16,432 — below the 17,000-mark after 187 days.

33,000

UK FLYERS ARRIVED  
BETWEEN NOV 25 AND DEC 23

114

FOUND +VE, SAMPLES  
SENT FOR GENOME SEQUENCING

VACCINE DRY RUN  
SUCCESSFUL: CENTRE

The Health Ministry on Tuesday said the two-day dry run for Covid-19 vaccination in Punjab, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat was successful. The objective of dry run was to undertake and confirm field implementation of CoWIN and test vaccine delivery arrangements.



The new strain has cast a cloud over international flights. FILE

UK FLIGHTS LIKELY TO  
REMAIN SUSPENDED

**New Delhi:** In view of the new Covid-19 strain being detected, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said there could be slight extension of temporary suspension of passenger flights between India and the UK. TNS

CENTRAL FORCES TO ASSIST  
IN VAX WASTE DISPOSAL

**New Delhi:** The government has asked the Central armed police forces to prepare for extending a helping hand in waste disposal management during Covid-19 vaccination programme to be launched soon. TNS

### Ex-CM Shanta's wife dies of Covid

DHARAMSALA, DECEMBER 29

Former Himachal CM and BJP veteran Shanta Kumar's wife Santosh Shailja (83) died after suffering a heart attack at Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, this morning. After testing Covid positive, the couple was admitted to the medical institution on December 27. Her body was cremated in Palampur following Covid protocols. Shanta Kumar and his close family members and a few BJP leaders were present. — TNS

## Highly infectious, not more lethal

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

The six UK returnees, who tested positive for the mutated virus, are largely asymptomatic and not too sick as the strain is not known to cause severe disease.

Rakesh Mishra, Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, one of the 10 labs in the national genome sequencing consortium tracking Covid positive UK returnees, today said the variant "is not worse than the others and clinically does not

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

RECOVERED 98,07,569  
FRESH FATALITIES 252  
TOTAL DEATHS 1,48,153

WORLD

TOTAL 8,18,42,364  
RECOVERED 5,79,64,233  
DEATHS 17,85,000

present different or severe symptoms, but it is much more transmissible".

"Most people with the

mutant strain are asymptomatic as is the case with normal strain where 80 per cent cases are mild," he said.

Of the six passengers with the variant, three were tested at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, two at CCMB, Hyderabad and one at NIV, Pune.

Mishra said the variant had a greater capacity to infect people and that was a matter of concern as India witnessed second largest number of cases after the US and variants could emerge from within the country as well. — TNS

## Talks today, farmers firm on 4 demands

Say repeal of laws must for resolution

MUKESH TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 29

The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of 40 protesting farmer unions, on Tuesday stressed it would hold talks with the Centre as per the four-point agenda decided by it.

Formally accepting the invitation of the Union Government for the next round of talks, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha in a letter today to Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal said: "The farm unions will hold talks on the four-point agenda sent earlier to the government."

The farm leaders sent the four conditions again to the Centre while emphasising that for a logical solution to all relevant issues, it would be required that "our dialogue runs according to the agenda".

The agenda includes modalities to be adopted for the repeal of the three Central farm laws; mechanisms to be adopted to ensure MSP is a legally guaranteed entitlement; amendments to the Commission for the Air Quality Management ordinance to exclude farmers from the penal provisions; revocation of the proposed Electricity Amendment Bill to protect farmers' interests.



Farmers at Singhu. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### THREATEN TRACTOR MARCH

“We are going for talks with an open mind, but the Centre's intention is not clear. We will organise a tractor march on Dec 31 if the government doesn't accept our demands.

Harinder Lakhowal, BKU (LAKHOWAL) GEN SECV

150 VILLAGES RESOLVE TO  
PROTECT MOBILE TOWERS

The unions also clarified that they had earlier sought "necessary changes" in the Electricity Amendment Bill draft but now they wanted it to be revoked.

The Centre had yesterday invited 40 farm unions for the next round of talks on December 30 at 2 pm at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Responding positively, the unions had accepted the invite.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

### IN BRIEF

#### Karnataka Council Dy Chairman kills self

**BENGALURU:** Karnataka Legislative Council Deputy Chairman SL Dharm Gowda, who was seen being man-handled by Opposition in the House, was on Tuesday found dead on a railway track near his hometown. He was 64. **BACK PAGE**

#### After UP, MP issues conversion ordinance

**BHOPAL:** The MP Government on Tuesday gave its nod to an ordinance on the Bill against religious conversion through fraudulent means that stipulates a jail term of up to 10 years for violators. The UP Government also took the ordinance route to notify a similar law. **PTI**

#### At 0°C, Hisar turns colder than Shimla

**HISAR:** With the mercury dipping to zero degrees Celsius on Tuesday, Hisar was colder than Shimla where the lowest temperature was recorded at 1.6°C. The Indian Meteorological Department said Hisar's lowest temperature was seven degrees below normal. **TNS**

## Indian economy on strong wicket: UN

UNITED NATIONS, DECEMBER 29

India's economy could prove to be the "most resilient" in the subregion of South and South-West Asia over the long term, according to a report by the UN. It says the country's large market will continue to attract investments.

The report, 'Foreign Direct Investment Trends And Outlook In Asia And The Pacific 2020/2021', compiled by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, said the inward FDI flows to South and South-West Asia slightly decreased by 2 per cent in 2019, from \$67 billion in 2018 to \$66 billion in 2019.

The growth, however, was mainly driven by India, which accounted for 77 per cent of the total inflows to the subregion and received \$51 billion in 2019, up 20 per cent from the previous year.

The report said the majority of these flows were destined for the information and communications technology (ICT).

Regarding the ICT sector, the report said the investment to India had evolved from information technology services for multinational enter-

### DRIVING FORCE IN S ASIA

- The growth in South Asia is mainly driven by India, says report
- A majority of the investment inflow destined for the information and communications technology (ICT) sector
- Fast-growing telecom and digital space to see a faster rebound

prises to the thriving local digital ecosystem where many domestic players had attracted international investment.

The report added that FDI outflows from South and South-West Asia increased for the fourth consecutive year, modestly growing from \$14.8 billion in 2018 to \$15.1 billion in 2019. The report noted that in the short term, both inflows and outflows from and to the subregion were expected to decline.

"India's economy, however, can prove the most resilient in the subregion over the long term. FDI inflows have been rising, albeit lower, growth after the pandemic and India's large market will continue to attract investment," it said. — PTI

#### French designer Pierre Cardin dies at 98

PARIS, DECEMBER 29

Pierre Cardin, the French designer whose famous name embossed everything from wristwatches to bed sheets after his iconic space age styles shot him into the fashion stratosphere in the 1960s, has died, the French Academy of Fine Arts said on Tuesday. He was 98. Cardin's name went on thousands of products, while goods bearing his fancy cursive signature were sold at some 1 lakh outlets worldwide. **BACK PAGE**

## Highest truce violations by Pak this year

Indian forward posts, villages targeted repeatedly in breach of 2003 pact

JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

In 2020, there were 5,100 instances of ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest in nearly 18 years, that claimed 36 lives and left more than 130 persons injured, according to security officials.

They said "very heavy" shelling and firing by Pakistani troops virtually made the 2003 India-Pakistan border

112  
& 27\*

RAHANE'S MEN ROCK MELBOURNE

INDIA logged an 8-wicket win over Australia in the second Test at Melbourne to level the series 1-1, with two matches to play

India easily chased the target of 70 runs after bowling out Australia for 200 in their second innings

Ajinkya Rahane, stand-in captain in the absence of Virat Kohli, led with calmness and batted with determination, scoring 112 and 27 not out, to be named the Man of the Match

Debutant Shubman Gill was impressive; Ashwin bagged 5 wickets in 2 innings

The win came close on the heels of the debacle in the first Test at Adelaide, where India were bowled out for 36 in their second innings

### NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS

2019 3,289  
2020 5,100

### CASUALTIES

DEAD 36  
HURT 130

15 SOLDIERS DIED ALONG  
LoC IN JAMMU REGION

der truce "redundant".

"Pakistani troops repeatedly targeted forward posts and villages along the LoC and the International Border (IB) to create fear among the people and destabilise peace," a senior police official said.

"They have violated the ceasefire 5,100 times in 2020 with an average of 14 cases daily," an official source said. In these ceasefire violations, 36 persons, including 24 secu-

rity personnel, were killed and 130 injured, as per data. Fifteen of the soldiers died along the LoC in the Jammu region.

There were 3,289 ceasefire violations by the Pakistan army along the Indo-Pak border in 2019.

Of these, 1,565 violations took place since August 2019 after the Centre abrogated Article 370 that gave special status to J&K and bifurcated the state into UTs. — PTI

## Landless octogenarian couple lends might to Tikri stir

PARVESH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BARNALA, DECEMBER 29

An 81-year-old man and his 80-year-old wife from Kattu village in Barnala have been inspiring many at Tikri, the epicentre of protests against the Centre's farm laws.

Landless and childless, the couple claims the fight is for the betterment of Punjab and to safeguard the interests of the future generations.

While Jagir Kaur returned home last week owing to poor

### Fighting for Punjab's future, says Barnala duo



Jagir Kaur (80) and Sukhdev Singh (81) want the 'black' laws to go.

health after putting up at the Delhi border for a fortnight, Sukhdev Singh has been mobilising support in the village since Day One.

"Ours is a selfless fight as we neither have children, nor do we own any land. How will farmers survive if corporates snatch away their land? The 'black' laws must go!" says Kaur, anxious about the protesters she had to leave behind in extreme cold.

She plans to return to Tikri in a day or two. "The biting

cold probably took a toll on me. But this time, I am determined to fight till the end," says Kaur, asking her nephew Babu to show her a video from the protest site that has gone viral on social media.

An enraged Sukhdev calls it a struggle to "save the motherland". "Punjabis have won many a battle in the past. History is replete with examples. We will win this one too," he says. The duo survives on meagre old age pension and the support of villagers and relatives.

ARUN SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, DECEMBER 29

The functioning of the district police has come under the scanner in an alleged case of illegal detention.

A warrant officer of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, during a raid at the CIA office on December 27, found that Rajbir Singh, husband of Pirthipur village sarpanch Ranjit Kaur, was detained "illegally".

Recuperating at the Civil

### Murder suspect alleges third-degree torture

#### HC ISSUES NOTICE

■ A warrant officer, during a raid at CIA office, found that Rajbir Singh was detained illegally

■ The victim claimed he was thrashed by the police and given electric shocks

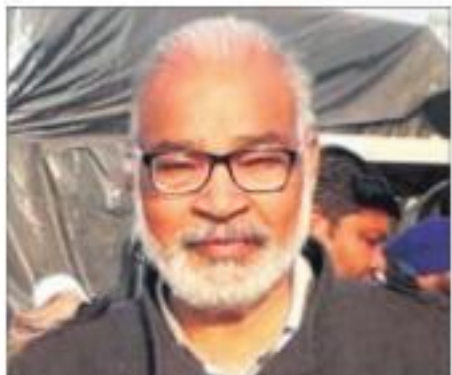
■ The HC has issued a notice of motion for January 8 to the state and the Ropar SSP

Hospital here, the victim alleged that he was detained for two days and subjected to third-degree torture by the CIA staff. He alleged that he was thrashed and given electric shocks.

Refuting the charge, SSP Akhil Chaudhary said: "Rajbir was called for questioning with regard to the death of his friend Surinder Bhalla whose body was found in Bhakra canal on October 1. Rajbir is our prime suspect."

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Amarjit Singh Rai

## Hundreds bid adieu to lawyer who ended life

FAZILKA, DECEMBER 29

Jalalabad advocate Amarjit Singh Rai, who ended his life during the farmers' protest at the Tikri border a few days ago, was cremated today. A large number of farmers and town residents participated in the funeral. Seeking a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the family, complete loan waiver and a government job for Rai's son, a joint delegation of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), with which the deceased was associated, and advocates presented a memorandum of demands to the Fazilka Deputy Commissioner.

Jalalabad Bar Association president Rohit Dahuja said Rai had been practising in Jalalabad for the past 27 years. Dahuja demanded the martyr's status for the advocate, who was concerned and pained by the farmers' plight. — OC

# 150 Sangrur villages resolve to safeguard mobile towers

Round-the-clock patrol ordered to prevent vandalism, says SSP

PARVESH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 29

Having faced difficulties after damage to mobile towers coupled with the appeals and warnings of CM Capt Amarinder Singh, 150 panchayats of various villages of Sangrur district have passed resolutions to protect their towers and other telecom infrastructure. They have also announced opposition to any such attempts and take the help of police immediately.

Sangrur SSP Vivek Sheel Soni has directed all his officers to ensure round-the-clock patrolling in villages and convince residents against any damage to property and violence.

"Our protest is going on peacefully across Punjab and at New Delhi borders. We should not damage mobile towers. If we lose connectivity, it is our loss only. Today we have passed a resolution that we would not allow any damage to any infrastructure in our village. The Sangrur SSP has assured us full support"



Farmers protest at a mobile tower site in Jalandhar; and (below) snapped cables of a tower. FILE



IT'S OUR LOSS ONLY

“Our protest is going on peacefully across Punjab and at New Delhi borders. We should not damage mobile towers. If we lose connectivity, it is our loss only.”

Satnam Singh, SARPANCH, MAIDEWAS VILLAGE

said Satnam Singh, sarpanch of Maidewas village.

Mardkhara, Kauhrian, Daula Singh Wala, Daulat-

pur, Hasanpur, Benra, Barhi, Badhesha, Model Town Mehlan-1, Khetla, Baghraul, Kakuwala, Safipur Kalan,

Toorbanjara, Dhandoli Khurd, Kothe Aala Singh Wale, Gobindgarh Jejiya, Khanal Kalan, Sular and many other villages of district have passed resolutions.

"All our farmer unions have already given a call for a peaceful agitation, but some miscreants are trying to damage towers. We would not allow it. We have passed a resolution for it today," said Gurpreet Singh, sarpanch of Kauhrian village.

Punjab Education and PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla has also been making personal calls to various panchayats to persuade them to thwart the attempts to damage the infrastructure. "I am thankful to panchayats that have been responding to our appeals and passing resolutions," said Singla.

Soni confirmed that SHOs in the district have received 150 resolutions passed by panchayats. "I have circulated my number among panchayats. Sarpanches can call me anytime directly, if they face any problem" he said.

# Cong behind damage to telecom infra, alleges BJP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today accused the Congress of conspiring to break down the communication system in the border state, and demanded that the Central Government should respond to this firmly.

He alleged the state government had been covertly supporting disruptive elements in the state, which in the garb of farmers' agitation had brought about urban Naxalism in the state. Besides damaging more than 1,600 communication towers, such elements would block roads and rails, paralyse toll plazas, he added.

Chugh said the Congress' support to such elements was exposed today after senior Congress leader YB Srivasta, who is close to party former president Rahul Gandhi, has given a call that communication towers all over the country should be destroyed and paralysed on the pattern of Punjab. Srivasta has exposed the Congress's mind to promote disruptive elements in the border state, the BJP gen-

## DON'T BE GOVT'S STOOGE: SHARMA TO DGP



■ State BJP president Ashwani Sharma on Tuesday asked DGP Dinkar Gupta to deliver justice by doing "his duty" and not play second fiddle to Capt Amarinder Singh

■ Alleging the law and order was deteriorating in the state, Sharma said: "We want a fair and just police force and not a 'stooge' which panders to the state government"

## FIR SOUGHT AGAINST BITTU OVER STATEMENT

■ The BJP on Tuesday demanded FIR against Congress MP Ravnesh Singh Bittu for his alleged statement that "there will be loads of dead bodies on roads, if the Centre does not agree to the farmers' demands"

■ Sharma said the BJP would burn Bittu's effigies on Wednesday and launch a protest against him in Ludhiana from January 2



eral secretary added.

"Why has the Amarinder government not taken action against anyone involved in destroying communication towers in Punjab?" Chugh wondered. Meanwhile, state BJP president Ashwani Sharma today demanded registration of FIR against Congress MP from Ludhiana Ravnesh Singh Bittu for his alleged controversial statement that "there will be loads of dead bodies on roads, if the Central Government does not agree

to the farmers' demands".

He said Bittu must explain whose bodies he wanted to see on roads. He said the BJP would protest Bittu and the Congress, and would ensure a case was registered against him. He said the BJP would launch a protest in Ludhiana from January 2, adding that on Wednesday, effigies of Bittu would be burnt across the state. He also demanded criminal cases against those who allegedly attacked the BJP leaders.

# Rival telecom firms make hay out of stir

SUKHMEET BHASIN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 29

Amid a large number of farmers applying for mobile number portability in protest against a particular telecom firm, major rival groups have started holding camps at several demonstration sites to attract customers.

Farmers are alleging that the Narendra Modi government has enacted the new farm laws only to benefit big

## OVER 7 LAKH CONNECTIONS PORTED OUT

“We gave a call to boycott a telecom company around 10 days ago. Since then, more than seven lakh connections have been ported to other networks. Baljit Singh, IT WING HEAD, KISAN EKTA MORCHA

corporate houses. Irked, they have started switching from a particular telecom company to rival mobile networks.

Speaking to *The Tribune* over the phone, Baljit Singh, IT wing head of the Kisan

getting a good response.

Jagbir Singh Jhumba, BKU (Ugrahan) leader, said, "A large number of farmers has applied for portability. A mobile company organised a camp at the Jeeda toll plaza recently, where around 150 protesters changed their mobile connections."

Further, he said 31 farmers unions had now decided they would not damage mobile towers, as it was affecting their protest.

Ekta Morcha, said, "We gave a call to boycott a telecom company around 10 days ago. Since then, more than seven lakh connections have been ported to other networks."

He said the boycott call was

# Fazilka doctors leave for Tikri

FAZILKA, DECEMBER 29

A team of four specialist doctors led by former MLA Dr Mohinder Kumar Rinwa left for the Tikri border today to take care of farmers protesting new agriculture laws.

The team comprises Dr Rinwa, a retired medical officer; Dr DP Godara, a former Civil Surgeon, Dr Yudhisther and Dr SL Phutela. The former MLA said the team was carrying sufficient medicines to be distributed among the



Fazilka residents raise slogans before leaving for Tikri border.

farmers. The medicines have been provided free of cost by arhtiyas' association and the

Indian Medical Association. The doctors also demanded the repeal of farm laws. — OC

# Join protesters on New Year, people urged

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29

The Dal Khalsa today urged people to join farmers at Singhu and Tikri borders on Thursday to mark the beginning of 2021 and pray for the success of their cause. Party leader Kanwar Pal Singh said the farm laws were a step towards facilitating monopoly of the corporates on the farm sector, therefore these must be repealed. — TNS

# ‘Dafliwala’ walks to Singhu in solidarity

APARNA BANERJI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SINGHU, DECEMBER 29

The dusk has set in at the Singhu border and a group of farmers huddle around a bonfire on a chilly evening, chanting "Satnam Waheguru". Among them is Mohammed Anwar (31) sporting a skull cap.

He is a qawwali singer from Dilshaad Garden in New Delhi. But this is now he is known among protesting farmers. For them, he is the "dafliwala" who sings songs, giving out the message of brotherhood and humanity.

Anwar's family doesn't know that he is at Singhu. "I told them I was going to Mumbai. I came here on foot, driven by the sea of humanity," Anwar says softly as he breaks from the group to talk to us.

## Spreads message of brotherhood

"I swear on God, these people are not terrorists. My only request to the government of my country is that it must listen to farmers. Without them, we all will starve. They must get justice," he says.

Anwar, who sings at Nizamuddin Auliya to earn a living, does not have money. "I had one 100 rupee note when I came here. Somehow, I lost it. Now, I am penniless."

As he speaks, two farmers hand him Rs 300, and promise him food and blankets, while Babu Hardeep Singh from Patiala's Bahlakha village hands him Rs 200. "Stay here as long as you want," he assures Anwar.

## Beacon of inspiration



Women hold a candle march to express solidarity with the protesting farmers in Bathinda on Tuesday. PAWAN SHARMA

# Defying all odds, 15 reach Delhi border

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 29

A group of specially abled persons has reached the Tikri border to offer support to farmers protesting against the Centre's new farm laws. Their high spirit astounded the protesters. Punjabi singers and actors welcomed them at the protest site.

In all, 15 specially abled persons, including eight on wheelchairs, and their members of families left for the Tikri border from Sunam.

Chamkaur Singh, president of the Azad Handicap Association of Punjab, said: "Many perceive our physical disability as a hurdle, but it is not so. It is our mind that takes the decision and not our body. By reaching Tikri, we want to give out a message to healthy persons, who have still not joined the farmers, to come forward and support farmers in their just cause."

He further said, "We know that we will face problems at Tikri as we will not get home-like comforts. But the agitation symbolises the struggle for

## SUPPORT FARMERS

“Many perceive our physical disability as a hurdle, but it is not. We want to give out a message to those who have still not joined the farmers to come forward and support them.”

Chamkaur Singh, AZAD HANDICAP ASSN HEAD

survival for all. If we fail to oppose the laws, history will never forgive us."

Akali Dal spokesperson Winnerjit Goldy, who accompanied the specially abled persons and made all arrangements, said their presence would be a morale booster for the protesters.

Rampal of the district's Jakhepal village said, "No one asked us to visit Tikri. We came on our own. I appeal to all join farmers."

Punjabi singer Kanwar Grewal said he was left speechless by the spirit shown by specially abled persons. "If our warriors can come, I do not think that anyone will stay back," he added.



A group of specially abled persons from Sangrur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# After essential supplies, books pour in for protesters

SAMEER SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 29

It's not only ration and other essential items that people want to donate for protesting farmers, but also books.

Voluntary groups of youngsters have started campaigns to collect books and then sending these to the makeshift libraries at protest venues at Delhi borders.

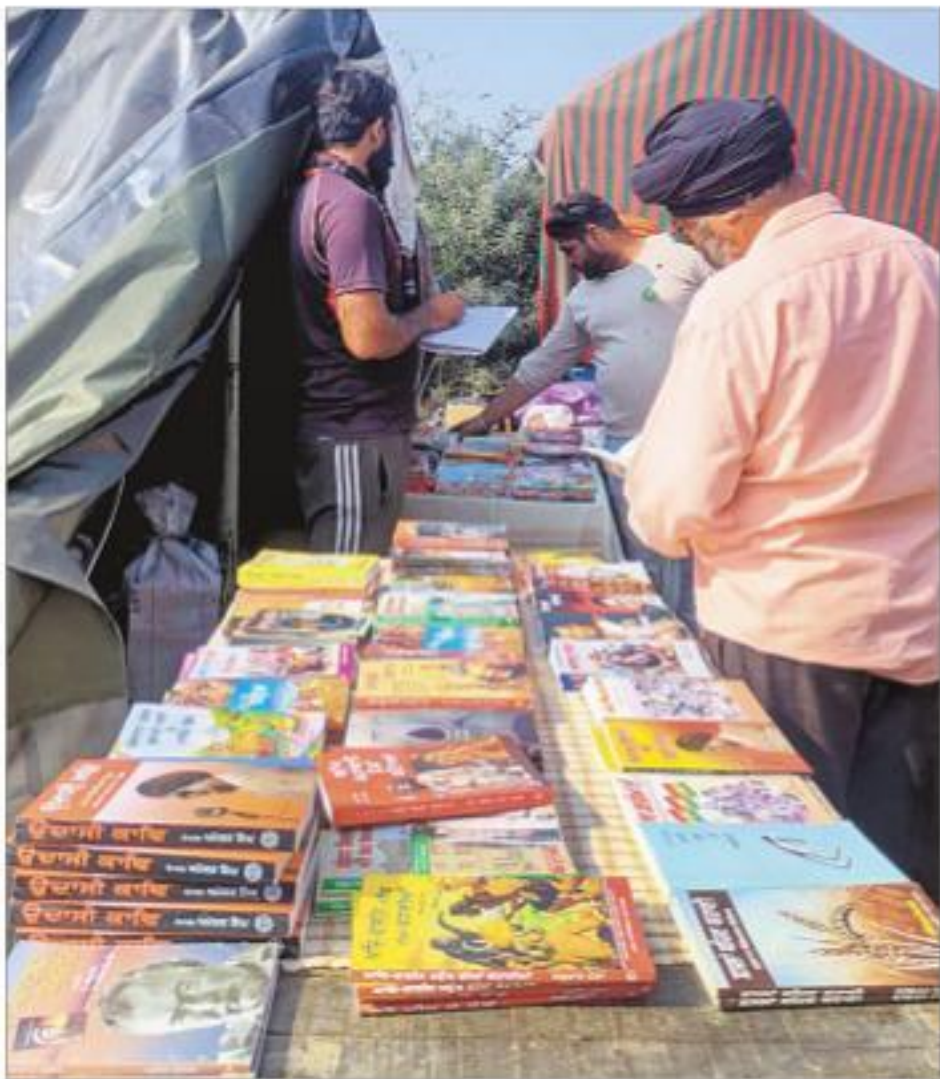
Groups such as The Punjab Club, Gur Shaahi and Project Punjab among others are making a good use of social media platforms to spread the word regarding voluntary book donations. They have also established different droppings points in the state where those interested can donate books.

Subhag Singh, 23, from Amritsar, who is a member of The Punjab Club, says:

"Apart from providing essential items, we have felt that providing books at the protest sites would be a wise move. Books will help protesters utilise their time constructively and enhancing their knowledge."

"We have been getting an overwhelming response from across the state. Even people from Haryana are contacting our co-ordinators to donate books. Many groups want to connect and contribute to the initiative."

Singh added, "Apart from using social media, we have been reaching out to academic institutions and student activists who have contributed immensely to the initiative. Volunteers are working at the grass-root level to collect books and dispatch them to the



A book donation counter set up at a literary festival in Bathinda.

## ENCOURAGING RESPONSE

“We have been getting an overwhelming response from across the state. Even many people from Haryana are contacting our coordinators to donate books. Many groups want to connect and contribute to the initiative.”

Subhag Singh, MEMBER, THE PUNJAB CLUB

makeshift libraries at Delhi borders in an organised manner. Interested persons or groups can contact either on mobile number 8146467727 or our social networking handles to drop books at the dropping points established in Jalandhar,

Amritsar, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Ferozepur, Patiala, Ludhiana and Ambala among other cities to the respective co-ordinators."

Initially, these groups had thought of organising a 'book langar', but dropped the idea believing that if they would distribute books randomly, these purpose might not be served.

Arpit, another volunteer from Ambala, along with others has established a book donation counter at a literary festival in Bathinda.

"We have been sending books to protest venues at Delhi borders. Apart from getting members connected to our initiative, we are visiting at different public events where we can spread the word so that those interested can contribute to the noble initiative," says he.



# Gurdaspur health staff, cops to get a jab in Jan

**RAVI DHALIWAL**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**GURDASPUR, DECEMBER 29**  
Health Department employees will be the first ones to get Covid vaccine during a drive set to be launched in the district in the second week of January. This will be followed by vaccination of 18,000 cops and civic body workers.

The district administration is making plans on Central government guidelines that call for vaccinating first healthcare and frontline workers who are above 50 years, followed by those with co-morbidities, and then the rest of the population.

The latest electoral roll for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls will be used to identify the priority population over the age of 50.

Dr Arvind Kumar Manchanda, district immunisation officer, said 7,573 employees had already reg-

7,573 employees register online

istered themselves online. “The vaccine will be administered only to the registered employees. In the first phase, doctors and paramedical staff of the Gurdaspur and Batala Civil Hospitals, primary health centres and community health centres, and ASHA and anganwadi workers will be covered. In the next phase, cops and MC employees will be given preference,” he said.

Rajinder Singh Sohal, SSP, said: “The Police Department has prepared a list for the drive. It is good that vaccination will be conducted in January, but till then it is important to follow safety norms. The encouraging results from vaccine trials have weakened voluntary caution.”

# Covid vaccine dry run successful

Around 250 anganwadi, ASHA workers participate in mock drill

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**LUDHIANA/NAWANSHAHR, DEC 29**  
The two-day dry run of the Covid vaccine ended successfully on Sunday in Ludhiana and Nawahshahr, official sources said here on Tuesday.

At least 125 healthcare workers, including anganwadi staff and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), underwent dummy vaccination at five designated places, also called session sites, in Jalandhar.

The same number of workers took the test in Ludhiana district.

Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma said the dry run was conducted at seven locations (one in each subdivision) — Civil Hospital and Dayanand Medical College and Hospital in Ludhiana, Raikot, Jagraon, Machhiwara, Khanna and Payal.

With no hiccups found in



Mock drill of the Covid vaccine being held in Nawanshahr.

## OBJECTIVE: TO TEST APP'S FEASIBILITY

“During the dry run, the end-to-end testing of the Covid vaccination process was completed successfully. The primary objective was to assess the operational feasibility of using the CoWIN application in the field environment. Varinder Kumar Sharma, LUDHIANA DC

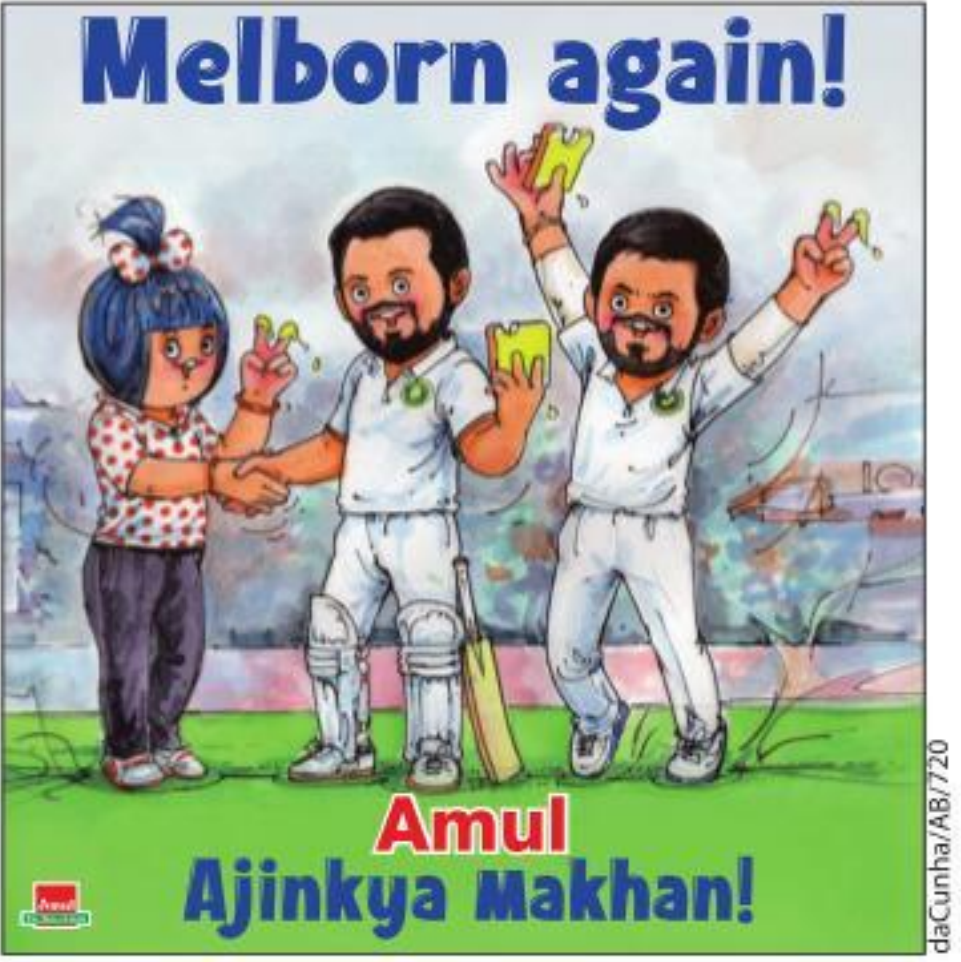
the system during the mock drill, Ludhiana was officially declared ready for the massive immunisation drive.

Sharma said, “The mock drill was aimed at testing the laid-out mechanisms for the roll out of the Covid vac-

cination in the system put in place for the purpose. During the dry run, the end-to-end testing of the Covid vaccination process was completed successfully. The primary objective of the dry run was to assess the operational feasibility of CoWIN application in the field environment and to test linkages between planning.”

In Jalandhar, planning the entire dry run, preparing session sites, checking CoWIN app status, mapping the sites and uploading the data of healthcare workers on it was done on Monday. The Tuesday’s drill was about carrying vaccines to the sites, their distribution and constituting immunisation teams.

Civil Surgeon Dr Rajinder Prasad Bhatia said, “The beneficiaries will get details of designated session sites through messages on the SMS.”



# Handwritten papers as per old pattern, students confused

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BATHINDA, DECEMBER 29**  
Handwritten question papers, typing errors, markings with black pen — this is how students of Punjabi University-affiliated colleges have been receiving question papers online.

They say question papers are based on the old pattern, creating confusion.

Because of Covid, the university had issued new guidelines for online examinations. As per the new rules, the exam duration is two hours, but question paper mentions it as three.

The new guidelines also provide for attempting only 50 per cent of questions. But the question paper, as per the old pattern, has been divided into three sections with instructions to attempt three to four questions in each section.

Sources say the handwritten question papers reiterate the fact that the financial condition of the university is bad.

The university had collected around Rs 2,000 as examination fee from each student. More than 2 lakh college stu-

“Some papers seem to have been framed before the new guidelines were issued. The university has streamlined the process. Now, all papers are being typed and framed as per the new pattern.”

Jasvirinder Singh,  
IN-CHARGE (EXAMS), PUNJABI UNIVERSITY

dents of 17 courses are appearing for exams these days.

Dr Jasvirinder Singh Khatkar, professor in-charge (Examinations), Punjabi University, said: “The examination fee varies from class to class. The fee is for the complete process, including paper setting and checking. Some papers seem to have been framed before the new guidelines were issued.”

He added said the examination department had streamlined the process and all papers were being typed and framed as per the new pattern.

# Farmers' agitation set to redefine parties' poll narrative

## «LOOKING BACK 2020

### POLITICS

RAJMEET SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29**  
The narrative against the central farm laws is set to drive Punjab's political agenda in the New Year in the run-up to the Assembly elections due in March 2022.

The din of the ongoing apolitical 'kisan andolan', at the gates of the Capital, is getting shriller by the day. Its ripples are bound to be felt in the political arena in the coming days.

The farmers 'andolan' has given birth to a new political awakening. The New Year will see political parties re-strategise in the changed dynamics.

While the ruling Congress will look to remind the farmers about party's effort in sustaining the agitation before it reached Delhi, the Akali Dal will have to re-establish itself in the rural hinterland after parting ways with its long-standing ally, the BJP. Trying to play host to the protesting farmers at the Delhi border, the AAP is trying to strike a chord with farmers.



The farmers' stir has forced the Akali Dal, Congress and AAP to reformulate their strategies. FILE

## KEY EVENTS: SAD, BJP PART WAYS; SCHOLARSHIP SCAM ROCKS GOVT

- SAD makes U-turn on farm laws, snaps ties with BJP; Harsimrat Badal quits Union Cabinet
- Congress government brings amendments against the laws in the state Assembly
- AICC replaces party state affairs in charge Asha

- Kumari with Uttarakhand ex-CM Harish Rawat
- Congress chief Sonia Gandhi disbands Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee
- Senior Akali leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa breaks away from the SAD
- Ex-minister Navjot Singh

- Sidhu ends self-imposed exile, attends luncheon meeting with CM amid rapprochement efforts
- Post-matric scholarship scam rocks Congress government, Opposition corners Social Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot

remaining poll promises.

On his part, senior Akali leader Dr Daljit Cheema says the main concern of the party will be to take along regional parties in strengthening the federal structure and involve farmers in making farming profitable.

Leader of Opposition of AAP Harpal Cheema says though the farmers' stir remains the key issue, they will highlight in the New Year poor governance, besides failure of the Congress government in curbing illegal mining, and transport and cable mafia.

# Sidhu in soup again, this time over pics with Sikh symbols

NEERAJ BAGGA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 29**  
Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has raked up a fresh controversy by posting some photographs on Facebook, showing him draped in a piece of cloth embossed with Sikh religious symbols around his shoulders.

Soon after the pictures were uploaded, these were widely circulated on social media. The Sikh Youth Power of Punjab, a religious body, was quick to approach the office of Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh, seeking strict action against the politician.

In Jathedar's absence, they handed over the memorandum to his assistant Jaspal Singh who assured them of initiating strict action after a probe.

The religious body members, led by Parmjit Singh, Pardeep Singh, Tegdeep Singh, Pritpal Singh and Palwinder Singh, alleged it was not the first time Sidhu had been involved in such a controversy.

In the communiqué, addressed to the Jathedar, they said the piece of cloth contained Sikh religious



Navjot Singh Sidhu

Akal Takht asks Cong leader to apologise for his 'sacriligious' action

## PAST CONTROVERSIES

- 2009: Akal Takht had accused Sidhu of hurting religious sentiments by taking part in a 'yagna' and wearing a thread
- 2013: Akal Takht Jathedar cautioned Sidhu after he quoted humorously from Gurbani during a TV show

symbols such as “Ek Onkar” and “Khanda” that amounted to sacrilege.

They said the politician had hurt the religious sentiments of the community by his actions and asked the Jathedar to take strict action against Sidhu. The Congress leader could not be reached for comment.

**Government of Punjab**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (B&R Works)**  
NIT No. 142/SE(TIC), Dated: 29.12.2020

The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (B&R) invites online Double Bids for 2 Nos. works as per schedule given below:-

Last Date of online Submission/ Opening of Bidding Documents of Bidding Document	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
18.01.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.	19.01.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Office of SE(TIC), Zone A, MCL	Will be Intimated in the Office of SE(TIC), Later on

For details logon to:- [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

**Note:-** Detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents, any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (TIC),  
Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

DPR/Pb/237

**ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ**  
**ਬਿਸਤ ਦੁਆਬ ਮੰਡਲ, ਜਲੰਧਰ**

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੋਲਦਾਰ, ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗਿਆਨ ਸਿੰਘ, ਪਿੰਡ ਤੇ ਝਾ: ਫੌਲਡੀਵਾਲ, ਰਹਿਸੀਲ ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮਿਤੀ 20.11.2017 ਤੋਂ ਲਗਾਤਾਰ ਗ਼ੈਰ-ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਚੱਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਜਦਕਿ ਇਸ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 2975/ਪੀ.ਐਚ. ਮਿਤੀ 27.06.2019, ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 9230 ਮਿਤੀ 24.12.2019 ਅਤੇ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 218 ਮਿਤੀ 23.01.2020 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਸਪਸ਼ਟੀਕਰਨ ਦੇਣਾ ਲਾਜ਼ੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਪਰ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਨਾ ਤਾਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੋਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਆਪਣਾ ਸਪਸ਼ਟੀਕਰਨ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ।

ਇਸ ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਦੇ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੋਣ ਤੇ ਇਕ ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਸਪਸ਼ਟੀਕਰਨ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਦੇਵੇ। ਜਵਾਬ ਨਾ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਵਿਚ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਮਿਲਾਭ ਇਕਰਰਫ਼ਾ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

DPR/Pb/243 ਸਹੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ, ਬਿਸਤ ਦੁਆਬ ਮੰਡਲ, ਜਲੰਧਰ।

**ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਿਮਟਿਡ, ਜਲੰਧਰ**  
**ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ**

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਿਮਟਿਡ (ਪਨਸਪ), ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪਨਸਪ ਗੈਸ ਸਹੂਲਿਤ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਲਈ ਮਿਤੀ 01.01.2021 ਤੋਂ 31.12.2021 ਤੱਕ ਐਲਾਨੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਭਰੇ 14.2 ਕਿਲੋਗ੍ਰਾਮ, 5 ਕਿਲੋਗ੍ਰਾਮ, 19 ਕਿਲੋਗ੍ਰਾਮ, 35 ਕਿਲੋਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਅਤੇ 47 ਕਿਲੋਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਦੇ ਸਿਲਿੰਡਰ ਗੈਸ ਹੁਦਾਮ ਤੋਂ ਗਾਹਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਘਰੇਘਰੀ ਡਿਲੀਵਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਪਸੀ ਗੈਸ ਹੁਦਾਮ ਲਈ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਜਾਂਚੇ ਹਨ। ਇਹ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਮਿਤੀ 30.12.2020 ਨੂੰ ਪਨਸਪ ਸਰਕਲ ਦਫਤਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਲਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਪਨਸਪ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਅਤੇ ਮੌਕੇ 'ਤੇ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਟੈਂਡਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਵਿਚ ਖੋਲ੍ਹੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ੀਕਰ ਹੀਓ ਜਾਣਗੇ। ਬਿਮਾਨਾ/ਸਕਿੰਡਿਨੀ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ ਬੈਂਕ ਡਰਾਵਰ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲਾਈ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

1. ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ	ਮਿਤੀ 30.12.2020 ਸਵੇਰੇ 12.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ 05.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2. ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਪਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ	ਮਿਤੀ 31.12.2020 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
3. ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਦੀ ਕੀਮਤ	1000/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਫਾਰਮ (Non Refundable)-GST
4. ਟੈਂਡਰ ਬੋਲ੍ਹਣ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ	ਮਿਤੀ 31.12.2020 ਨੂੰ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 01.00 ਵਜੇ

ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ, ਬਿਮਾਨਾ/ਜ਼ਮਾਨਤ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ ਦੇ ਵੇਰਵੇ ਮਿਤੀ 30.12.2020 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 09.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 05.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਦਫਤਰ, ਪਨਸਪ, # 76/2, ਗ੍ਰੀਨ ਮਾਰਲ ਟਾਊਨ, ਨੇੜੇ ਵਿਨ ਮੈਨਿਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਹ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਅਤੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੋਣਗੀਆਂ। ਹਦਾਇਤਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਭਿਲਾ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਇਲਕਮ ਟੈਕਸ, ਹੋਰ ਲਾਗੂ ਟੈਕਸ ਆਦਿ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ। ਟੈਂਡਰਕਾਰ ਕੋਲ ਪੈਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਅਤੇ ਪੱਕੇ ਪਤੇ ਦਾ ਪੂਰਬ (ਆਪਾਰ ਕਾਰਡ/ਰਾਸ਼ਨ ਕਾਰਡ) ਹੋਣਾ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ। ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ ਬਿਨਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਵੀ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਜਾਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੱਦ-ਨਾਮਨਸੂਰ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਸੋਧ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਤਾਂ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ ([pnusup@gov.in](http://pnusup@gov.in)) 'ਤੇ ਅਪਲਾਡ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

Mobile No: 98729-99541  
e-mail id: [dmpnusunipal@gmail.com](mailto:dmpnusunipal@gmail.com)

ਸਹੀ/- ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ,  
ਪਨਸਪ, ਜਲੰਧਰ।

DPR/Pb/242

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
**Tender Notice Reference No.19 Dt. 29.12.2020**

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab Executive Engineer Electrical Division Pb. PWD, B&R Branch, Sangrur invites online bids for the following Work(s):

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	DNIT for the work: Providing E.I. in Godown or EVM's and VVPAT's at Distt. Sangrur (Category-2 for 6000 units) ( Providing Goods Lift).	1

\* For detailed login to <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

**Note:-** Any quotation(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Electrical Division,  
PWD, B&R, Sangrur

DPR/Pb/239

**MISSING**

The General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely Ritam Devi R/o # 3812, Sector-56, Chandigarh, aged about 35 years, Height 5 feet, fair complexion, black hair, wearing blue colored Sari and Shawl, has been reported to be missing from her residence since 21.12.2020. In this regard, a DDR No. 21 dated 21.12.2020 has been lodged in Police Post Palsora, Chandigarh. The photograph of missing lady is given above.

In case of any clue about said missing lady, Please inform to Police Post Palsora on Phone No. 0172-2677030, 2688896 & SHO Police Station Sector-39, Chandigarh on Phone No. 9779580939, 0172-2690906, 2677039 and Chandigarh Police Control Room Phone No. 0172-2749194 or 112.

Chandigarh Police

**DIRECTORATE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS, PUNJAB**  
**PLOT NO. 3, SECTOR 38-A, CHANDIGARH**

**Tender/Reference No: 05**  
**NOTICE INVITING OFFLINE BIDS**

Director Cultural Affairs, Punjab invites sealed bids from eligible Consultants/Consultancy firms for the following work:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security/ Earnest Money (Rs.)	Last date and time for submission of sealed bids
1	Providing Comprehensive Technical & Interior Design Services for Development of a State of the Art 'PANORAMA' at the Bhagwan Valmiki Ram Tirath Shal Complex at Amritsar	5.00 Lakhs	14.01.2021 up to 03:00 p.m.

i) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid: **14.01.2021 at 3:30 p.m.**  
ii) Interested bidders can have the tender document by paying the fee amounting to **Rs. 2500/-**.

**Note:** Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on Punjab Tourism website only.

Sd/- DIRECTOR

DPR/Pb/208

**PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
**VATAVARAN BHAWAN, NABHA ROAD, PATIALA**  
**Phone: 0175-2200282, Tele-Fax: 0175-2215802**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of all concerned that M/s Sharu Special Alloys (P) Limited (Unit-II) has submitted an application to Punjab Pollution Control Board for conduct of public hearing for setting up of industrial unit having capacity of Steel Ingots/Billets @ 1,27,800 TPA by installing induction furnaces of capacity 2x15 TPH and 1x25 TPH and Structural Steel (TMT Bars & Flats, MS Bars, Wire Rod) @ 1,25,000 TPA by installing a concast machine and a rolling mill in the revenue estate of Village Mehlon, Lakhawal-Kohara Road, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab. The project is covered under the EIA notification No. S.C. 1533 (E) dated 14.09.2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, (MoEF&CC) Govt. of India, New Delhi and the industry is, thus, required to obtain environmental clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.

As a part of the procedure for seeking environmental clearance, as notified by the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi, the Industry has applied to the Punjab Pollution Control Board for conduct of the public hearing of its proposed expansion project. The draft Rapid Environment Impact Assessment study report along with executive summary (in English & Punjabi) of the project submitted by the industry is available in the following offices, which can be perused during the office hours on any working day:

1. The Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.
2. The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.
3. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana.
4. The Advisor, Regional Northern Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, (MoEF&CC) Govt. of India, Bays No. 24 & 25, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh.
5. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-1, Ludhiana.

Notice is, hereby, given to all concerned to file suggestions, views, comments and objections, if any, on the proposed project, to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala, within **30 days** of the Publication of this notice. Besides, a public hearing will also be held on **29.01.2021 at 11:00 A.M.** at the main gate of the industry located in the revenue estate of Village Mehlon, Lakhawal-Kohara Road, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab, which can be attended by any person including bonafide residents, environmental groups and others, located at the project/sites of displacement/sites likely to be affected. Oral/written suggestions, if any, can also be made during the public hearing.

**No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the public hearing.**



# Turncoats fielded, old party workers ignored, says Congress leader



SUKHMEET BHASIN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BATHINDA, DECEMBER 29**  
Infighting in the Congress came to the fore ahead of the Bathinda Municipal Corporation elections on Tuesday, when a party worker wrote to PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar over tickets being given to turncoats.

Congress worker Jatinder Kumar said, “I have stated in the letter that Congress workers of all 50 wards of the MC ensured Manpreet Badal’s win from Bathinda in the 2017 Assembly elections. As a reward, all old party workers deserve to get ticket for the MC elections.”

“As per party norms, turncoats, who joined the Congress after 2017, need to serve the party for six years. Only then, they will be eligible for the Congress ticket,” Kumar said. He cited the example of former SAD councillor Raju Sra and BJP’s Assar Paswan, who joined the Congress two years ago.

“Sra and Paswan had got cases registered against me and other Congress workers when the SAD was in power. Now, I get to hear that the Congress will field them in the MC poll. If this happens, my supporters and I will resign from the party, and field an Independent from ward 12,” Kumar said.

Another Congress worker Rampal, meanwhile, announced his candidature from ward 33 as an Independent after Neha Jindal, whose

Writes to PPCC chief over ticket allotment

## 6 YRS FOR ELIGIBILITY

As per party norms, turncoats, who joined the Congress after 2017, need to serve the party for six years. Only then, they will be eligible for the Congress ticket.

Jatinder Kumar, CONGRESS WORKER

family was earlier associated with the SAD, opened her election office. The Congress is yet to announce its candidate from ward 33, but sources say Jindal’s name has been cleared.

Rampal, who has been associated with the Congress for long, told *The Tribune*, “I have got a whiff that the party has decided to field an ‘outsider’ who joined the Congress from the Akali Dal recently. This is wrong. My hard work has been ignored.”

In the previous MC elections, he had unsuccessfully contested from ward 33.

In another development, Congress leader Harmander Singh Jassi’s hoardings were removed within a few hours after being installed. The hoardings were carrying photos of the senior party leaders except for Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal’s. Jassi said he was disappointed. “I am a former MLA from Bathinda. If anybody had a problem, he should have contacted me.”

Bikramjit Singh Shergill, MC Commissioner, said: “The hoardings were removed as these were illegal.”

# Cops’ plea for production warrant of 2 rejected

**BALWINDER MURDER** Tihar authorities say Tarn Taran police can question them via video link

PK JAISWAR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 29**  
In a jolt to the Tarn Taran police investigating the Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh murder case, the court of metropolitan magistrate in New Delhi and Tihar jail authorities have refused to send two suspects, held by the Delhi Police, on production warrant in view of the Covid-19 pandemic guidelines.

The police have, however, been told they can question

the accused through video conferencing.

The Delhi Police had arrested five members of banned terrorist group Babbar Khalsa, including two gangsters, after a brief exchange of fire in the Shakarpur area of the Capital on December 7.

Besides the two suspects, Gurjeet Singh, alias Bhaa, and Sukhdeep Singh, alias Bhura, of Gurdaspur, the others in custody include Kashmir residents Shabbir Ahmad, Ayub Pathan and Riyaz.

## EFFORTS ON TO GET THEIR CUSTODY: SSP

- Suspects Gurjeet Singh, alias Bhaa, and Sukhdeep Singh, alias Bhura, are in Delhi Police custody along with three others
- Tarn Taran police say they need to interrogate them personally for recovery of weapon used to gun down **Balwinder Singh**
- SSP Dhurman H Nimbale said efforts were on to bring them on a production warrant for interrogation



According to the Delhi Police, Gurjeet and Sukhdeep had gunned down Balwinder at the behest of another gangster Sukhmeet Singh, alias Sukh Bhikhariw-

al, who was arrested in Dubai.

Though the Tarn Taran police had cited personal enmity of Balwinder’s son as the cause of the killing, the Delhi Police had claimed

# 70 veterans of 1971 Indo-Pak War, ‘Veer Naris’ felicitated

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PATIALA, DECEMBER 29**  
As part of the ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ celebrations, 25 ‘Veer Naris’ and 70 veterans from Patiala were today felicitated by the General Officer Commanding of the Airawat Division during an event at Yadavindra Services Officers Institute here.

A Guard of Honour was given to the ‘Victory Flame’, which symbolises the valour and sacrifices of the Indian soldiers in the 1971 war, as it was brought to the venue. The veterans and ‘Veer Naris’ were presented with mementoes and shawls.

The event was attended by representatives of all three armed forces and prominent civil dignitaries.

The General Officer Commanding paid homage to all soldiers who had



A war veteran being honoured in Patiala. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. He said the Army was always prepared to defend the nation and give a befitting reply to any adversary.

The ‘Victory Flame’ was later handed over to a team of the Nabha military station, where similar commemora-

tive events will be conducted. **Abohar/Sriganganagar:** The Army today conducted an equipment and weapon display at the Lohgarh stadium in Bharatpur. The Victory Flame was also put on display and standing drills were conducted for the audience. — OC

# Spike in heroin seizure by BSF along border

ANIRUDH GUPTA

**FEROZEPUR, DECEMBER 29**  
The seizure of heroin witnessed a tremendous spurt this year, as almost 497 kg of heroin was recovered during various operations carried out by the BSF along the 550-km-long Punjab Frontier.

This quantity does not include the contraband seized by other law enforcement agencies operating along the border, including the CIA, Narcotics Control Bureau, Punjab Police, Counter Intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, SSOC and newly formed STG.

The seizure by the BSF alone is more than double as compared to last year when 227.55 kg heroin was seized.

About 221 kg heroin was



BSF troops patrol an area along the Indo-Pak border. FILE PHOTO

2020	2019	2018
497 KG	227.55 KG	221 KG

seized in 2018, 278.14 kg in 2017 and 230.53 kg in 2016. The last highest recovery during this decade was recorded in 2014 when 361.416 kg heroin was seized along the border. The record seizure indicates

that despite the Covid lockdown, cross-border smuggling of drugs has been continuing unabated. Even the quantity of arms and ammunition seized by the BSF has seen a multifold rise this year.

## MAN ARRESTED WITH 1KG CONTRABAND

**Abohar:** The Border Security Force on Tuesday claimed to have seized two packets of contraband (weighing 1.06 kg), suspected to be heroin, and apprehended Sukhdev Singh in the area under 124 Battalion of the BSF in Abohar sector. The contraband is valued at ₹5 crore in the international market. The police also seized 75 gm heroin from five individuals in three separate incidents in Abohar. oc

This year, 39 weapons of various calibre and make, including AK series assault rifles, Beretta pistols and Chinese-made small firearms, have been seized by the BSF. Earlier, the cross-border

smugglers were using “conceal and clear” strategy to push contraband. They have now started using water channels to execute their sinister designs. “On several occasions, cross-border smugglers had tried to push heroin filled in water bottles through the Sutlej. It used to be concealed in water hyacinth to escape BSF’s attention,” an official said.

“Our forces have thwarted several attempts by anti-national elements to push consignments of contraband inside the Indian border. We are determined to ensure the sanctity of the borders at all times,” said a BSF official, admitting Pakistan smugglers had been desperate to push drugs into the Indian territory taking advantage of the standing crop during the lockdown.

# Stuck in India since lockdown, 137 cross over to Pakistan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 29**  
Shahin, a Pakistan national, was today elated to return to her country after undergoing treatment for a leg injury in India.

Stuck here due to the Covid-19 lockdown and post-regulatory guidelines, she was among the 137 Pakistan and Indian nationals who crossed over to Pakistan from the Attari-Wagah joint check post. She, along with many of her compatriots who were stuck here in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, heaved a sigh on being able to travel to the neighbouring country.



Police officials verify documents in Amritsar on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Muwasir Nabi, an Indian national, said the pandemic and its restrictions hampered his education in Peshawar, where he is pursuing BTech. He could not return to Pakistan to join his classes as he

was visiting his hometown in Jammu and Kashmir when the lockdown was imposed. Abida, a Srinagar resident, said her family was visiting her parental house in Pakistan after three years.

# Reconstruction of Abohar canals starts after 43 years

RAJ SADOSH

**ABOHAR, DECEMBER 29**  
To provide water till the tail end and prevent breaches, the Irrigation Department has started reconstruction of Malukpura sub canal (14 km) and Daulatpura sub canal (15 km), which were initially constructed in 1977. On behalf of PPCC president Sunil Jakhar, his nephew and former district president of Youth Congress Sandeep Jakhar reached the spot recently with department officers and villagers to inspect the ongoing development work and review its progress.

The state has released Rs 14.5 crore for this work. Jakhar said no one could understand the importance of irrigation water more than a farmer. “As a farmer, it is my endeavour that our brothers, especially those settled at the tail end of the irrigation system, get sufficient supply for sowing of crops. For this, the canals with brick lining are being reconstructed using cement and concrete material. Farmers are being

To benefit farmers in tail-end villages



Officials at the construction site in Abohar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

motivated to monitor the quality of construction in their respective areas,” he said.

Agriculture in Abohar was dependent totally on canal water, as groundwater was not fit for crop irrigation, he said. “Fruits can’t be grown in orchards if sufficient canal water is not made available at appropriate time,” Jakhar said. “Our economic system depends on agriculture. If the crop is good, then farmers, traders, small shopkeepers and labourers are able to

meet their family needs. Farmers had to protest many times in the past 10 years under the previous government. Sunil Jakhar and other Congress MLAs had joined them in the sit-in and Captain Amarinder Singh had visited the tail-end villages to express solidarity with the affected farmers. Now, the present government is trying to solve the problem on priority and funds have been earmarked for renovating the canal,” Jakhar said.

## Minorgirlheld captive,abused; manarrested

ABOHAR, DECEMBER 29

The police here today arrested Pargat Singh of Daulatpura village in connection with alleged kidnap and sexual abuse of a 17-year-old girl at Daulatpura village.

In a complaint on the child helpline, the girl had alleged Pargat held her captive in his house at the village by promising her a job after her father went missing. Pargat sexually exploited her for over two and a half years, she alleged. The accused allegedly made pornographic videos of her with the help of three others and threatened to circulate these on the social media.

Pargat, his brother Satnam Singh, Jyoti and Jassi have been named in the FIR.

In another case, four persons — Raghubir Prasad, Akshay Kumar, Amit Kumar and Soma Devi — were booked after a woman on December 25 alleged Raghubir kidnapped her teenage daughter and forcibly married her with the help of three others. — OC

# Six years on, Muktsar’s maiden railway overbridge incomplete

ARCHIT WAITS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, DECEMBER 29

The work on the maiden railway over bridge (RoB) of Muktsar town is going on at a snail’s pace, as the state government has allegedly not paid money to the private firm after paying the first instalment.

The foundation stone of this RoB was laid in February, 2014 by the then Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal. Later, the groundbreaking ceremony was performed by PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla in January, 2019, who had said the Congress government would construct it at Rs 38.25 crore in the next 15 months (April, 2020). However, only the pillars have been erected on the ground, and a major portion of the work is still pending.

Sources said many factors had delayed the work, including shortage of funds, some alterations in the design and labour crunch due to the pandemic. Sham Lal Goyal, an activist of the National Consumer Awareness Group,



The work on the Muktsar-Jalalabad railway overbridge has been going on at a snail’s pace. TRIBUNE PHOTO

said, “I have talked to the construction contractor and the authorities concerned, who told me that shortage of funds was the major reason. The private construction firm is yet to get the payment of works done by it, amounting to nearly Rs 6 crore.”

Kulbir Singh, Executive Engineer, PWD (B&R), said, “We are hopeful to complete the work by June 30, 2021. As of now, the construction firm has completed 35 per cent of the work. We have cleared the

## SHORTAGE OF FUNDS

I have talked to the construction contractor and the authorities concerned, who told me that shortage of funds was the major reason. The private construction firm is yet to get the payment of the works done by it, amounting to Rs 6 crore.

Sham Lal Goyal, ACTIVIST,  
NATIONAL CONSUMER AWARENESS GROUP

bills submitted to us, which are pending in the treasury office.”

The railway crossing on the Jalalabad road has been closed for commuters from February 13, 2019. It is affecting the business of the traders. Subhash Khurana, a businessman, said, “Nearly six years have passed after the foundation stone of the RoB was laid, but the work is still incomplete. Our business has been badly hit, but the authorities concerned seem to be least bothered.”

## Covid scare keeps patients away from rehab centre

ABOHAR, DECEMBER 29

The number of visitors at the outpatient opioid assisted treatment centre in the 100-bed subdivisional civil hospital came down to over 200 during the nationwide lockdown. Now, it has come down further to over 50.

Around 700 patients are registered at the centre for rehabilitation. They have been taking regular medicines being provided free of cost. Regular functioning here suffered during the lockdown as Dr Mahesh, in charge of the centre, had to go to the Fazilka district hospital three days a week as no specialist was posted there.

During the Covid lockdown, the chain of drug supply was snapped, which saw many quitting drugs. Also, people avoided seeking indoor treatment in hospitals out of fear of infection. Dr Gagandeep Singh, senior medical officer, said due to Covid, neither the government nor NGOs could organise awareness campaigns. — OC



# NGT panel raps state for not naming erring staff

**DELAY IN STPS**  
**BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29 The NGT-appointed Yamuna Monitoring Committee has played the state government for not naming the officials responsible for the delay in setting up new sewage treatment plants (STPs), removing deficiencies in the existing ones and non-payment of environmental compensation.

In its fifth report submitted to the NGT recently, the panel has said that the government has failed to adhere to its orders issued on September 11, 2019. The orders had called for Rs 5 lakh per month (per STP) as compensation to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) if operational deficiency is not fixed within three months.

Regarding the under-construction STPs, the NGT had ordered to deposit Rs 10 lakh per month per incomplete STP after July 1, besides Rs 10 lakh per month for discharging untreated effluent.

“We have collected details from all stakeholders and submitted comments to the Chief Secretary for the final consideration. After that, a reply will be submitted on the report,” said S Narayanan, Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB).

In its fifth report, where a chapter is dedicated to lapses on the part of Haryana, the committee said of 24 STPs that were randomly



## THE MONITORING COMMITTEE REPORT

■ Of 24 STPs that were randomly checked in Yamunanagar, Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Gurugram, Faridabad and Palwal, 16 were found not complying with the standards.

■ 66 MLD of untreated industrial and domestic effluent is

being discharged from the Jagadhri-Yamunanagar township into a ditch drain

■ In Sonapat, none of four CETPs and three STPs is functioning properly. In Faridabad, 210 MLD of untreated domestic effluent is being discharged into the Yamuna.

checked in Yamunanagar, Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Gurugram, Faridabad and Palwal, 16 were found not complying with the standards.

The report adds, “Officials of the HSPCB are not performing their duty assigned under the Provision of Water Act and the 1974/Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986.”

Similarly, none of 12 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) was found complying with the norms.

“The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) is constructing CETPs without considering the effluent characteristics of units operational in Industrial Estate. This is the only reason behind the poor

efficacy of the existing CETPs,” the panel added.

The report said 66 MLD of untreated industrial and domestic effluent is being discharged from the Jagadhri-Yamunanagar township into a ditch drain and neither the MC nor the Public Health Engineering Department is taking responsibility for the same.

In Sonapat, none of four CETPs and three STPs is functioning properly. In Faridabad, there is no functional STP while 210 MLD of untreated domestic effluent is being discharged into the Yamuna. The construction of seven CETPs in Faridabad, Gurugram and Yamunanagar is yet to start. The next date of hearing by the NGT has been fixed for January 27.

# Village bans entry of BJP, JJP leaders

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, DECEMBER 29

Showing their resentment against the three laws, farmers have banned the entry of BJP-JJP leaders and workers in Salaru village of the district.

They have put up hoardings at various entry points and threatened leaders and workers of the BJP and JJP that they will be responsible for the consequences if they enter the village.

“These laws are against farmers and labourers and

the government should repeal these,” said Sahab Singh, a farmer.

Meanwhile, the protest at the Bastara and Peont toll plazas entered the fifth day on Tuesday.

The relay fast at Bastara entered the second day as five farmers sat on fast while others staged dharna on the NH-44. Haryanvi folk artistes entertained the farmers with ‘ragnis’. The passage through the toll plaza would remain free for commuters till the demands were fulfilled, said a farmer.

## Repeal laws, 14 khaps urge PM

HISAR, DECEMBER 29

A group of 14 khap panchayats, during a meeting at the Khatkar toll plaza in Jind on Tuesday, sent a letter to PM Narendra Modi, seeking withdrawal of the three farm laws. Azad Singh Palwan, a spokesperson of the khap panchayats, said they had asked all villages where they had influence to write letters in support of the protesting farmers to the Prime Minister. Satbir Singh, Khera khap pradhan, said they had devised the strategy to intensify the stir in case the government didn’t accept the demands tomorrow. — TNS

# Farmers threaten to enter Delhi on Jan 26

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR/HISAR, DECEMBER 29

Eleven farmers from various organisations sat on relay fast at the Tikri border on Tuesday. Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait visited the site to boost the morale of protesters.

Tikait said they would accept nothing less than repeal of the three laws and there was no question of accepting amendments.

“The ongoing protest will be intensified if the meeting on Wednesday remains inconclu-



BKU leader Rakesh Tikait speaks at the Tikri border.

sive. Farmers carrying the Tricolour will enter Delhi on January 26 if the government does not accept our demands till then,” he said.

Meanwhile, urging the Centre to accept the demands of

farmers, Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda on Tuesday asked it how many sacrifices would it take for the government to listen to the agitators. He said the government must show an open mind in the meeting scheduled for Wednesday.

Deepender visited the Kitlana toll plaza in Bhiwani district to join the farmers. Speaking to the protesters, he said, “It is a matter of shame that farmers are facing the bitter cold while the rulers are resting in their heated rooms, indifferent to the suffering.”

# State withdraws 6K posts of constable

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29 The state today withdrew an advertisement wide which it had invited applications for filling 6,000 posts of constable in the Haryana Police.

The advertisement for filling 5,000 constable posts of men and 1,000 women issued on June 9, 2019, was withdrawn by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission through a notice issued on its website. “The advertisement has been withdrawn following a letter from the Haryana Police,” said Bharat Bhushan Bharti, HSSC chairman.

Were advertised  
18 months ago

DGP Manoj Yadava said: “We will place a fresh demand for 5,500 constable posts of men and 1,100 for women. Besides, 698 woman constables are to be recruited for Durga One Battalion. Hence, a fresh ad will be released soon with 1,298 more posts.” Meanwhile, sources said the advertisement was withdrawn to allow the EWS candidates to apply for the posts. — TNS

## 1,716 missing kids traced this yr: DGP

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29 This year, the Haryana Police have traced 1,716 missing children, including 771 are boys and 945 girls, and handed them over to their families in different parts of the country, DGP Manoj Yadava said here on Tuesday.

The state police also rescued 1,189 child beggars and 1,941 child labourers during the year. They were found either working in shops or doing odd jobs for their livelihood.

He said 1,433 children were traced by the field units and the remaining 283 were rescued by the specialised anti-human trafficking units of the state crime branch. — TNS

# HARYANA

## At 0°C, Hisar colder than Shimla

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, DECEMBER 29

With the mercury dipping to 0°C on Tuesday, Hisar was colder than Shimla, where the lowest temperature was recorded at 1.6°C.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) weather bulletin stated that Hisar’s lowest temperature was seven degrees below normal.

Severe cold wave has gripped the region and frost was noticed in the open grounds and agricultural fields in the morning. Farmers say a layer of white blanket was spotted in the fields

## IMD issues 2-day orange alert

today morning. Due to severe cold wave, the IMD has issued orange alert in the region for two days.

Farmers said the frost was likely to damage vegetable and mustard crops, but it was not harmful for the wheat crop. Tomato, peas, chilli, cauliflower, potato and other seasonal vegetables will suffer damage due to frost.

Subhash Chander, a farmer of Shahpur village near Hisar, said: “Extreme

cold temperature and frost has started damaging vegetables. Even mustard, which is in the grain-formation stage in the region, will be adversely affected.”

Dr ML Khichar, head, Agriculture Meteorology Department in the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University, said frost was harmful for vegetables and fruit-laden plants of the rabi crops and nurseries.

“Farmers should irrigate the fields during the day to maintain surface temperature and cover the nurseries with cloth or polythene to protect it from frost,” he said.

## Man burnt alive as car catches fire

FARIDABAD, DECEMBER 29

A 30-year-old man, Suresh Kumar of Sector 29, was burnt alive after his car caught fire in Sector 85 here on Tuesday afternoon.

“Although the police reached the spot soon, the car had been reduced to ashes,” said Suraj Bhan, a local. The police suspect CNG leak cylinder behind the mishap. — TNS

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## कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (कक्ष-उत्पादन) सतपुड़ा भवन, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल

Telephone & Fax No. (0755) 2674354, 2524231, E-Mail : pccfprod@mp.gov.in,

Web Site : https://mpforest.gov.in/

### वनोपज के घोष विक्रय की सूचना

वन मंडल का नाम तथा दूरभाष क्रमांक	काष्ठगार का नाम तथा दूरभाष/ मोबाइल क्रमांक	नीलाम दिनांक (समय प्रातः 9.00 बजे से)	वनोपज का प्रकार	सागौन काष्ठ अनुमानित मात्रा		अन्य काष्ठ अनुमानित मात्रा		जलाक चट्टा अनुमानित मात्रा		औद्योग. वॉस अनुमानित मात्रा वि.ई./ नग में	व्यापार वॉस अनुमानित मात्रा वि.ई./ नग में	कटिंग वॉस अनुमानित मात्रा नग में	अन्य सामग्री	अवरोध मूल्य (लाख रु. में)
				लट्टा घ.मी.	बल्ली/ डेरी नग में	लट्टा घ.मी.	बल्ली/ डेरी नग में	सागौन	अन्य					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
बैतुल (उत्पा.) 07141-234408	बैतुल 9424796054	01.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल बैतुल काष्ठगार)	नया	175	0	14	0	0	114 ई.ई.डि फनेरा 154 वीग बांसा.	0	0	0	0	6
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	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
हौरांगबाद सा. 07574-254178	तारु 9424796037	04.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल तारु काष्ठगार)	पुराना	368	3870	328	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
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हरदा (उत्पा.) 07577-222025	सोलापुर 07575282111	05.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल हरिदारी काष्ठगार)	नया	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	350
	पुराना		0	150	33	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
	नया		500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	564
खण्डवा उत्पादन 0733-2223231	तिरुविक्का 07571-251127	06.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल आसारपुर काष्ठगार)	पुराना	134	58854	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1182
	नया		500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	672
	पुराना		211	3667	50	0	0	0	318 बि.ई.	2750 नग	0	0	0	613
सनाद 9826554266	तिरुविक्का 07573230235	08.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल सनाद काष्ठगार)	नया	80	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
	पुराना		251	49653	63	737	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	905
	नया		95	1600	26	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
नर्मदा नगर 940794227	पुराना 9424796037	11.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल सीहोर काष्ठगार)	पुराना	1080	138981	220	420	0	0	42,500 बि.ई.	0	0	0	17
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
	पुराना		2680	438200	206	805	620	39	0	0	0	0	0	153
देवास (उत्पा.) 07272-251364	नर्मदा नगर 940794227	12.01.2021	नया	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		1228	80143	259	1033	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
सीहोर (सा.) 07562-222767	चन्द्रबेकार 9424796219	13.01.2021	पुराना	99	1150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		100	5000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		1766	75061	114	615	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
रावसेन उत्पादन 07482-222110	सीहोर 9424906152	15.01.2021	नया	315	27000	0.100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		100	800	2	0	0	1	1424 नग	3971 नग	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		133	400	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20
दक्षिण सागर सा. 07582-236215	भैरलपुर 9424796205	16.01.2021	नया	525	13500	50	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		1605	166030	416	1700	720	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		150	1200	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
उत्तर सागर सा. 07582-236337	सिरोंजा 9424793809	18.01.2021	पुराना	589	10681	90	96	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	118	0	0	66.5	0	0	0	0	0	20
छतरपुर 07682-245316	सिरोंजा 9424793809	19.01.2021	नया	1	45	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		29	642	18	47	66	0	1.44 बि.ई.	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		159	3811	0	0	364	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
टीकमगढ़ (सा.) 07683-245315	ओरछा 9424796173	20.01.2021	पुराना	202	2000	0	0	1300	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		5	940	1	330	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		39	660	6	6	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
दिण्डौरी उत्पा. 07644-234312	तेन्दुखेड़ा 9424796129	21.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल करीजा काष्ठगार)	नया	0	0	0	2400 साल 100 अन्य	0	110 साल	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	1158 साल 350 अन्य	2857 साल 1197 अन्य	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	
	नया		0	0	200 साल 50 अन्य	7000 साल 1000 अन्य	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
द. बालाघाट उत्पा. 07632-241516	गढ़मसरद 9424796129	22.01.2021	पुराना	7	15	5418 साल 2282 अन्य	5568 साल 2883 अन्य	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
मण्डला (उत्पा.) 07642-252449	गर्ग बासा. 9424796281	23.01.2021 (नीलाम स्थल कासली काष्ठगार)	नया	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50000 नग	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
साइला (उत्पा.) 07642-252449	चक्रासुई बांसा 9424796290	24.01.2021	पुराना	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40000 नग	0	0	20
	नया		290	0	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		300	0	1200	1799	859	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
द. राहडोल 07652-240304	बालनी 9424796386	25.01.2021	नया	500	5000	200	50	12	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		3184	45710	670	350	838	53	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		2	0	46	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
उ. बालाघाट उत्पा. 07632-241518	नरसराहा 9424796304	26.01.2021	पुराना	2	691	46	2038	0	86	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	300	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		57	510	3098	2814	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
मण्डला (उत्पा.) 07642-252449	लामना काष्ठग. 6263712778	27.01.2021	नया	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50000 नग	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
प. चिदवाड़ा (उत्पा.) 07162-243460	सामना बासा. 6263712778	28.01.2021	पुराना	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	217720 नग	0	0	20
	नया		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
उमरिया सा. 07653-222217	उमरिया 9424796378	29.01.2021	नया	0	0	350 साल 50 अन्य	0	0	552	0	0	0	0	20
	पुराना		0	0	4022 साल 477 अन्य	1598 साल 2149 अन्य	2980	61	0	0	0	0	20	2459
	नया		25	100	500	200	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	900
सिक्की (उत्पा.) 07692-220554	लानी 9424796290	30.01.2021	पुराना	522	1294	4355	1186	0	837	0	0	0	0	900
	नया		200	1000	100	200	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3227
	पुराना		3709	51865	920	848	1191	0	0	0	0	0	0	421
प. चिदवाड़ा (उत्पा.) 07162-243460	मुण्डानी 9424357071	31.01.2021	नया	100	1600	6	0	25	40	0	0	0	0	1653
	पुराना		963	11070	31	0	43	0	0	0	32905 नग	0	0	155
	नया		950	10000	200	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1653
उमरिया सा. 07653-222217	आमला 9424796092	32.01.2021	पुराना	547	1000	200	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	155
	नया		0.500	0	113	50	0	75.50	0	0	0	0	0	155
	पुराना		19	207	526	2110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155



# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Vaccination dry run

Chance to tie loose ends, resolve issues

NOW that a vaccine is almost here, administering it is no less challenging than containing the virus. Four states, including Punjab, have participated in a dummy exercise to assess readiness for what is being billed as India's most ambitious mass immunisation programme. The Centre plans to cover 30 crore people in the first phase as and when the Covid-19 vaccine is rolled out. The dry run is meant to provide insights into any gaps before the commencement of the actual drive. Besides real-time checks on cold storage and transportation arrangements, also under scrutiny is the effectiveness of CoWIN, the flagship online platform for monitoring vaccine delivery, testing receipt and allocation, plus the deployment of teams.

The protocol involves sending an SMS to identified beneficiaries with the name of the vaccinator, and the time of the vaccination. Each candidate has to sit for 30 minutes after being administered the shot to check for any adverse reaction, to take note of which panels have been formed. The drill includes concurrent monitoring and collation of feedback. States are likely to come up with their own vaccination targets that can be met.

Who gets vaccinated first has been made clear in the priority list, but funding the programme and pricing are unresolved issues. So is the cost to be borne by states, reeling under financial strain? Given the limited capability of the public health system and the sheer numbers involved, how and in what capacity the private sector is involved could be crucial. The Centre has resolved to be exclusively responsible for procuring vaccines, but overpricing and black marketing in the rush to jump the queue are distinct possibilities. There could, in the near future, emerge a scenario where open sale is allowed of expensive vaccines that have not been picked up for the national programme. More than keeping a check on the rate being charged, the real test would be keeping tabs and monitoring the beneficiaries.

## Sweet Melbourne win

Amazing turnaround after Adelaide shocker

INDIA'S emphatic win over Australia in the second Test at Melbourne, which levelled the series 1-1 with two matches to go, must rank very high among India's triumphs in cricket's toughest format. After they were demolished within three days in Adelaide — bowled out for 36 in the second innings — the odds were stacked heavily against India. An injury to key fast bowler Mohammed Shami and the return to India of Virat Kohli — India's captain and best batsman — on paternity leave made them very vulnerable against the world's three best fast bowlers, Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. A 4-0 series whitewash by Australia seemed imminent. Victory, thus, seems incredible and very, very sweet.

The quiet and soft-spoken Ajinkya Rahane — diametrically opposite in character to Kohli — showed that the strength of the mind is the greatest strength. He captained the team with imagination and verve, and his marshalling of his bowling resources drew praise from the experts. His 112 in the first innings, the first century of the series from either side, helped India get a big lead. The two debutants India fielded — Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj — rose to the challenge and made important contributions. Ravindra Jadeja, who replaced Kohli in the playing XI, chipped in with both bat and ball. Jasprit Bumrah is near the top of his game, and Ravichandran Ashwin's continuing success on Australian tracks suggests that he is peaking as a spinner. A complete team effort helped wash off the stain of a historical low total of 36 at Adelaide.

The series is poised for a thrilling finish, even as the race for the top two spots in the inaugural World Test Championship is hotting up. Australia is a team that must never be counted out — they are playing on their own wickets, their bowling is top-class, and their batting is packed with serious talent. The excellent Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne have had a quiet series, and that would make them doubly determined to make up in the remaining games. But now is the time to celebrate India's win, which brings down the curtain on a year that was miserable for sport, as it was for almost every aspect of life. Three cheers for sport!

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I think politics at its best is about compromise, shades of grey and about issues. — Matt Taibbi

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

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1920

### The President and Non-co-operation.

AS already anticipated in these columns, the President's observations on non-co-operation have given dire offence to the extreme non-co-operators. One organ of this school has bluntly told the President that he has failed to come up to its expectations. But surely if he has, the fault is not his, but of those who knowing the views he held on this subject expected a different sort of utterance from him. If the expectation was based on the ground of the prevailing enthusiasm among a good many people in the country in favour of the non-co-operation programme, then, too, it was forgotten that with only a few exceptions, this enthusiasm had not so far been shared by the political leaders of either wing of the nationalist party in any part of the country or indeed by the party generally, and that Mr. Vijiaraghavachariar was among the very last persons in the country to be moved by enthusiasm. As it is, the speech that he made is the only type of speech that one acquainted with his views as well as with the general cast of his mind had a right to expect from him. Two things stand out. First and foremost, the President is in favour of the principle of non-co-operation. "As to the great necessity for the adoption by us of some such weapon as that of organised non-co-operation with the rulers in view to reach our full freedom immediately," he says, "there can be no two honest opinions. The age of pious annual budgets of resolutions by us is gone forever. We are bound, if we do not want to perish as a people, to think of and adopt a method to force England to let us get into freedom at once." The plain fact is that Mr. Vijiaraghavachariar is one of those men who had preached and practised non-co-operation long before that term was coined and who are as little co-operators as Mr. Gandhi himself.

# Unfolding crisis in Nepal

India should not encourage big power rivalry in Himalayan nation for short-term gains



SHYAM SARAN

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY AND EX-AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL

FACED with an imminent split within his Nepal Communist Party (NCP), Prime Minister KP Oli advised the Nepal President to dissolve parliament and announce fresh elections to be held on April 30 and May 7, 2021. Since the NCP was formed through the merger of the erstwhile United Marxist Leninist (UML) party and the Communist Party (Maoist) in 2018 under the patronage and encouragement of China, the likely break-up of the party is being seen in some quarters as a setback for China. Certainly, the Chinese activist-ambassador in Kathmandu, Hou Yanqi, has been busy trying to keep the party united by playing referee among the contending factions. China has sent a four-member party delegation led by a vice-minister of the Chinese Communist Party International Liaison Department, to launch a last-ditch effort to keep the NCP united. This reflects its concern over the latest developments. It is learnt that pressure is being put on Oli to revoke the dissolution of parliament and to accept a leadership change. In order to persuade him to resign, there are moves to bring in a non-controversial political figure as Prime Minister. Oli is bound to resist this. We will have to wait and see how this latest crisis plays itself out.

Whatever may be the fallout of Oli's move on the fortunes of the NCP the consequences for Nepal's democracy and the country's political stability and economic prosperity will be dire. Nepal is already suffering from the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Tourism income and remit-



ROILED: Prime Minister Oli is facing pressure to accept a leadership change. REUTERS

New Delhi is in danger of becoming a side-show in what may be shaping up as US-China power play in Kathmandu.

tances from its substantial migrant population working abroad have dried up. Political turmoil will only exacerbate the economic crisis and may lead to renewed and widespread violence. The dissolution of parliament to forestall an intra-party crisis will damage multi-party democracy and is a bad precedent. The ongoing pandemic and the unsettled political and economic situation will provide the pretext for postponing the elections and to even declare an extended emergency. Oli may appear to have turned against his Chinese benefactors. That does not make him a custodian of Indian interests overnight. If it suits him, he can turn to fanning the flames of anti-Indian sentiment as he has done before. He has warned that he was being opposed by "national and international forces" that were unhappy over his 'patriotic' move to revise maps to show territory 'occupied' by India as belonging to Nepal. So, that is being held in reserve. Whatever may be the tactical setback to China in this political crisis, it does not add up to a gain for India. India's long-term interest in this sensitive neighbouring country is best served by a stable multi-party democracy

and economic prosperity for which India remains an irreplaceable partner. To extend support to Oli or to encourage an apparently 'right wing coalition' to supplant the NCP, even if this means derailing Nepal's democracy, would prove to be extremely short-sighted.

One has also learnt that the US may have had a role to play in the crisis because its ambitious \$500-million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) initiative was being opposed by Prachanda and other NCP leaders though Oli had given his approval. Those opposed to it were said to be acting on behalf of China. In that case, India is in danger of becoming a side-show in what may be shaping up as a US-China power play in Nepal. The US may believe that it could use Nepal as an instrument to exploit Chinese vulnerabilities in Tibet. China will then feel obliged to do whatever is necessary to prevent this. If India is perceived by China to be working according to the American agenda, its hostility to India will get much sharper. Indian and US interests in Nepal are not aligned if it is the US which is in the lead. In the past, we have worked together with the US and the

# With a heart full of gratitude

ANIRUDH DHANDA

RAIN brings respite from dry cold, and at the same time, ushers in the real winter. And it rained through the night and continued into the small hours of the morning. Tip tip tip... constant was the sound of falling raindrops. Sometimes it was the heavier pitter-patter and then it tired down to the slower tip-tip. It cast a musical spell.

I open my eyes to the world and look out of the window. The scene has changed again but the joy remains unshorn. I seem to float as I fix my eyes on the floating flakes of white clouds in the sky. Trees are all bathed. Green leaves are slowly changing to yellow and would soon turn to a burnt sienna before they finally leave their

mother branches. The upcoming sun peeps through the crevices betwixt the clouds and caresses those on the mango tree, giving them a golden hue. Only a few are left, yet they are happy to receive some, without a tinge of sadness, about only a few hours left of togetherness. Those on the top of the full tree abound in gratitude. A slow breeze makes them dance joyfully in their hive.

Lights at the front gate have now been switched off. The day is lazily coming up. My first cup of tea is almost empty. I pull the rug up to cover my knees. Some compulsive morning walkers are returning home, soaked to the skin. A maid is hurrying to her work. She is not carrying an umbrella but is desperately trying to cover her head with the *pallu* of her

*sari*. A pack of dogs is on a slow trot looking for shelter and food. A couple of them have had a good mud bath. Some vehicles have started plying and you hear the sound of water getting rolled over their tyres.

Birds are playing hide and seek in the branches and sometimes you see them wobbling off water from their wings. Lethargy has crawled into the bones of my dogs as well. They are spread on the rug in the lobby, each tightly hugging on to its own self.

I walk upstairs and sit in my chair. Yesterday's newspaper lies folded on the table. The entire expanse is engulfed in varying shades of grey. One bird with a long tail and magnificent colours around its neck has come to sit on the railing. It tilts its head towards me to have a good look

at the old man. A slight movement from my side and it takes a flight to some other rooftop or a tree.

I gaze at the vacant plots across the road. There are trees at their boundaries. I am reminded of the greenery that had suddenly sprung up during the last rainy season, filling up the emptiness in between. How life in these plants had survived the sweltering heat of May and June only in the hope of showers! Their quickness to respond to nature should be a part of the curriculum in schools to teach gratitude to humans. In gratitude, even the small plants raise their heads to be counted, without any grudges. I recollect Chesterton's lines, 'And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.'

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Amartya's views

Reference to the news, 'Strong case to review farm laws: Amartya', the views expressed by the Nobel laureate should not be dismissed as baseless allegations. That space for dissent is shrinking is the general perception gaining ground across the country. But his advice is not likely to induce introspection by the government; rather, his suggestions are likely to be trivialised and he might face the charge of being driven by some ulterior motive not in sync with national interest. A government which is not open to be convinced by arguments and remains unmoved by the plight of protesters can't escape the charge of undermining democracy.

ROSHAN LAL GOEL, LADWA

#### Telecom towers

The disruption of the telecom network in Punjab under the garb of farm agitation is not the right way to undertake democratic protests. Even after appeals and warning by the Chief Minister, damaging towers and snapping power supply to networks has been on the rise. It has impacted the lives of common citizen for no fault of theirs. The government should take proactive measures to rein in elements resorting to such tactics. It might

pose a risk to national security in a border state.

ANITA WAHI, KAPURTHALA

#### Rahul's absence

Refer to the news report 'Sonia, Rahul skip key Cong event,' a frequent absentee, Rahul Gandhi has now skipped an important party function. In the past, he has attended Parliament sittings erratically and missed important meetings of parliamentary committees. His attitude, as described by former US President Barack Obama in his recent book, of being 'a student who was eager to impress his teacher but lacked the aptitude or the passion to master the subject', is a pointer to the bleak future of the grand old party.

ASHOK KUMAR, JALANDHAR

#### Govt bungalows

Apropos of the editorial 'Misuse of govt property', former ministers, lawmakers and VVIPs not evicting the official accommodation is commonplace. To check this, the process of allotment and eviction ought to be transparent and in public domain as after all, it is the money of the taxpayers that is involved. The Election Commission should take an affidavit during the filing of nominations that any elected repre-

sentative, in case of failure to vacate government accommodation, shall be debarred from contesting elections. Some deterrence needs to be introduced in the system so that it is not taken for granted.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA

#### Cricket win

A resilient Indian cricket team has won the second Test in an emphatic manner, outplaying Australia in all fields. The win has shown that the team has learnt its lessons from the failures that resulted in a debacle in the first Test at Adelaide. The win will definitely boost their morale so that they begin the New Year on a winning note and in a confident manner.

M PRADYU, KANNUR

#### Coronavirus strain

The new coronavirus strain has upset plans for festive season. India and many other countries have suspended air links with the UK. The fear of transmission has had a cascading effect even in India. Maharashtra has imposed night curfew and Tamil Nadu has banned New Year celebrations in hotels and pubs. For sure, governments have to be extra vigilant now to ensure gains made so far are not lost.

LJS PANESAR, VIA EMAIL

#### Light pollution

A global light pollution map developed by a group of researchers has ranked New Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata as three cities with the highest light pollution in India. It should serve to alert us to the looming problem about which we are unaware of. Light pollution refers to the harmful impact of artificial outdoor lighting. A 2017 global study revealed that the 'loss of night' due to excessive artificial light is increasing three times faster in India than the global average. It is time India woke up to the problem before it overwhelms us.

SHOVANLAL CHAKRABORTY, KOLKATA

#### Problems in Balochistan

Rights activist Karima Baloch, who was found dead in Canada, is the second Baloch to have died under mysterious circumstances. Earlier, Sajid Hussain Baloch, a journalist, was found dead in Sweden weeks after he went missing. These are suspected to be targeted killings. The Baloch nationalist movement has long been a thorn in the side of the Pakistani military-ISI combine which has cracked down on them for seeking their rights. Against this backdrop of oppression, it is hypocritical of Pakistan to talk about human rights violations in J&K.

LAL SINGH, AMRITSAR



# India needs a rethink on ‘free market’



DEVINDER SHARMA  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

ALL of us like chocolates. But the next time you bite into a chocolate bar, do remember that the average income a cocoa farmer earns a day is probably less than the price of a medium-sized bar that is in your hands. About Rs 100 (\$1.3) a day is what a cocoa farmer in West Africa earns.

At a time when the \$210-billion global confectionery industry has been growing by leaps and bounds, with chocolate taking the highest market share, the biennial Cocoa Barometer 2020 report illustrates how the prevailing market-driven business model leading to excessive profits for the chocolate industry is based on achieving higher productivity of cocoa that in turn has kept five to six million cocoa farmers perpetually in poverty. Discarding the dependence on markets, if only cocoa farmers had received a minimum support price (MSP) over the decades, it would have helped millions of them lift themselves out of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

In Britain, after the Milk Marketing Board, which regulated milk prices and marketing, was dismantled, the number of dairy farms has come down drastically — from 40,000 in 1995 to an estimated 8,310 in 2020. Although milk producers had wanted price regulations to continue, market

economists thought otherwise. Between 1994 and 2010, milk prices fell by 28 per cent and there came a time (in 2015) when prices slumped further by 40 per cent. Farmers were simply unable to even recover the cost of production. The plight caused by the destruction of farm livelihoods in the process was brushed under the carpet. As a British farmer said: “Every genuine farmer is now stuck unfairly on a treadmill with accumulating debts to meet unless he goes bankrupt, commits suicide or finds another source of income.”

What happened in Britain, or for that matter in Europe, was no exception. In America, at least 50 per cent of the dairy farms have disappeared in the past two decades. According to the US Department of Agriculture, the number of licensed dairy farms had come down from 70,000 in 2003 to 34,000 in 2019. While small farmers bowed out, mega-dairies have taken over. As a result, despite the closure of small dairy farms, milk production has further swelled. This is certainly not what India needs. In a country where roughly 50 per cent of the population remains engaged in agriculture, and which tops the global milk production chart, what India needs is a production system by the masses, where small farmers earn a decent livelihood from an assured price delivery mechanism.

As expected, a ‘free market’ in dairy benefited the milk processing companies, and pushed small dairy farmers out of business. Thus began a vicious cycle of over-production, bringing down the market prices. Instead of fundamentally addressing the flaws in supply chains, by ensuring assured prices to dairy farmers to begin with, Europe and America focused more on



BITTER TRUTH: Had cocoa farmers got MSP over the decades, it would have helped millions lift themselves out of poverty and hunger. REUTERS

To ensure that small farmers are not wiped out, the US has been coming out with a Farm Bill every five years. The 2018 Bill expanded the safety net for farmers, making a provision for \$867 billion for the next 10 years in commodity support and several measures to enhance farm incomes as well as for nutrition schemes.

providing bailout packages to temporarily assuage the farmers’ ire. British farmers (and also in Ireland), therefore, continued to protest against the ‘unfair’ prices and have since been campaigning for a fair deal.

The tragedy on the dairy farm was further compounded by an unjust WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture, which allowed heavily subsidised milk from European countries to be dumped in developing countries. Breaching the five per cent product-specific subsidy support norms for developed countries, EU had actually subsidised skimmed milk powder by 67 per cent, thereby easily dumping cheaper milk in developing countries. In the process, small dairy farmers suffered at both ends — in developed as well as developing countries.

No wonder, at a time when mainline economists in India are excited at the possibility of ‘free markets’ enhancing farm incomes, Canadian farmers are seeking more protection to save their livelihoods. Three major farm unions in eastern Canada are demanding protection (by way of subsidy and import tariffs) against US President Donald Trump’s recent \$32-billion subsidy package to American farmers, which they say threatens their survival: “Farmers need to be able to cover the cost of production or many of them will not be able to survive much longer.”

Now let us look at America. The prosperity that we see on the farm is a reflection of the massive subsidy support. To ensure that small farmers are not wiped out, the US has been

coming out with a Farm Bill every five years. In the 2018 Farm Bill, the US expanded the safety net for farmers, making a provision for \$867 billion for the next 10 years in commodity support, several measures to enhance farm incomes as well as for nutrition schemes.

Instead of leaving farmers to face the volatility of markets, the US introduced the Agricultural Risk Campaign (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programmes in the 2018 Farm Bill. Both programmes are aimed at covering losses a farmer suffers when crop prices or revenue drop, and cover 24 commodities, including wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, rice, soyabean, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed, seed cotton, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, and peanuts. In addition, there are numerous other programmes for relief from natural disasters, crop insurance, structural adjustment and environment.

Even in China, markets have failed to help increase farm incomes. According to a report in *Washington Post*, “China’s agriculture support includes government purchases at above-market prices, as well as market price support programmes, where farmers receive a direct payment from the government if market prices fall below a minimum set price.” This has helped raise farm incomes by 38 per cent for wheat, 32 per cent for rice and 29 per cent for corn. China provided a farm subsidy support of \$212 billion in 2016, the highest in the world.

Well, if the two biggest agricultural giants realise the inability of markets to help raise farm incomes, India too must rethink its approach. There are significant lessons here.

# Personal liberty bedrock of interfaith marriages



TAHIR MAHMOOD  
EX-MEMBER, LAW COMMISSION

The policies of ruling dispensations in some states, running conspicuously contrary to the juridical verdicts on the issue, lend a shoulder to anti-social elements to fire their guns from. Do we not recognise our higher courts any more as interpreters of law and dispensers of justice? If we really do not, are we still eligible to be reckoned among democratic nations of the world?

LOVE is blind’ is a quirky phrase being cited in the West since the beginning of the 15th century. “Love is so blind, it feels right when it’s wrong,” US star Beyoncé Knowles has been singing in our time. Cupid’s arrow can indeed break all sorts of blinds and pierce through the narrow confines of religion and caste. In India, arranged marriages have been the general social norm — marriages by the parties’ own choice have been, and remain, an exception. Interfaith marriages belong to this exceptional category — parents and guardians never ‘arrange’ their wards’ marriage outside their community, even in the 21st century. By no means, however, are cross-cultural marital alliances a new social phenomenon. The multi-religious society, that we have always been, has had enough space for them in all phases of our history.

In modern India, higher courts have emphasised time and again the legal validity and social unassailability of interfaith marriages, linking them to people’s human and constitutional rights. The apex court had declared in the *Lata Singh* case of 2006: “This is a free and democratic country and once a person becomes major, he or she can marry whosoever he or she likes.”

Referring to parental objections to an interfaith marriage, the court had ruled: “The maximum they can do is to cut off social relations with the son or the daughter, but they cannot commit or instigate acts of violence



UNAMBIGUOUS: India’s higher courts have emphasised time and again the legal validity and social unassailability of interfaith marriages. PTI

against the person who undergoes such a marriage.” In the *Shakti Vahini* case of 2018, the court reiterated: “When two adults marry out of their volition, they choose their path; they consummate their relationship; they feel that it is their goal, and they have the right to do so.”

The apex court verdicts on interfaith marriages have been cited and acted upon in many High Court decisions. There have been some aberrations, only to be corrected, sooner or later, by higher judicial bodies. In

Noor Jahan (2014), the Allahabad High Court had taken a contrary view, holding that conversion for the sake of marriage was legally untenable. Continuing with its opinion in the *Priyanshi* case decided this year, the court dismissed a petition filed by an interfaith couple seeking police protection. Both these cases were decided by single judges who, like the ordinary members of society, must have been influenced by the political ideology currently dominant in the state where their court sits. It was unfortu-

nate but not unprecedented — the concept of committed judges has not been unknown in our country either at the local or the national level.

As the decisions in both these cases clearly went against the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court rulings on the subject, they could not hold the ground for too long. Within a few weeks after the second case was decided, a Division Bench of the Allahabad High Court overruled both, declaring that they had not laid down ‘good law’ (*Priyanka Kharwar*, decided on November 11, 2020). “Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of the two individuals,” the two judges on the Bench ruled, adding that they did not see parties to an inter-religious alliance as Hindu and Muslim but “rather as two grown-up individuals who out of their own free will and choice are living together.”

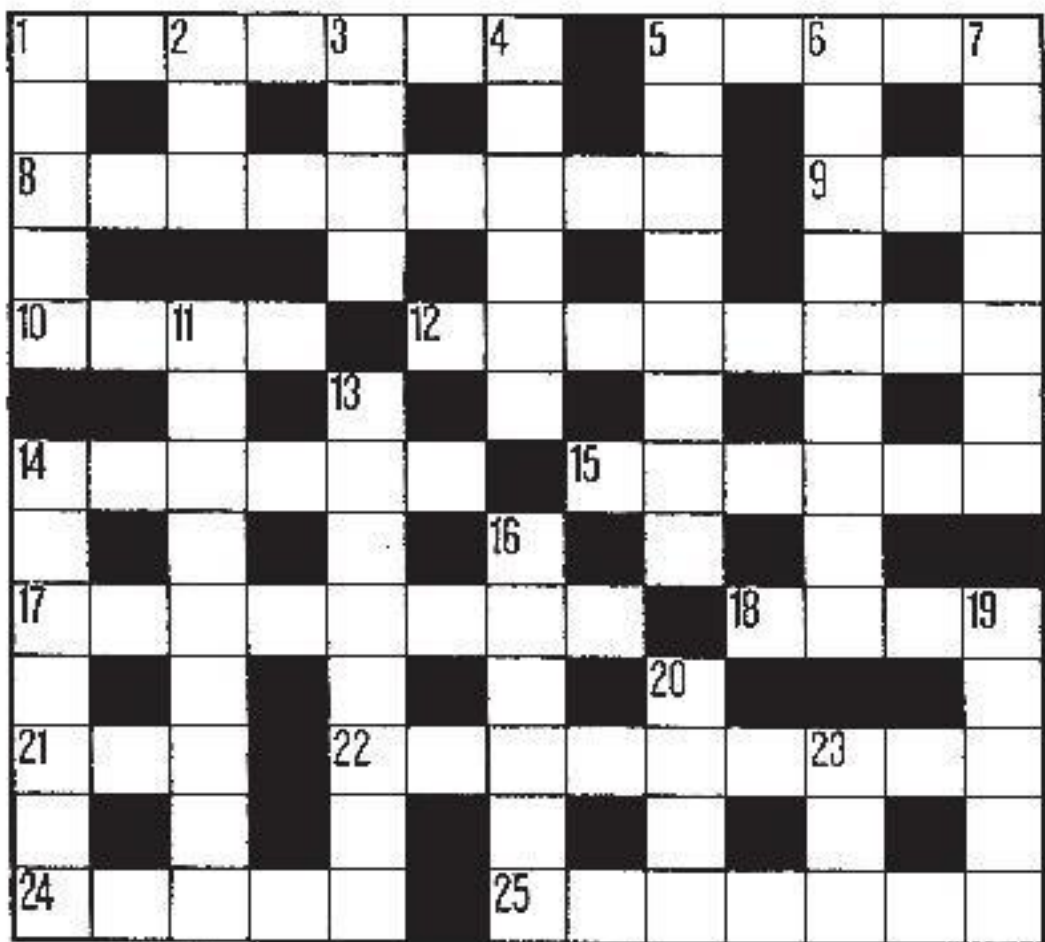
In quick succession came the Karnataka High Court ruling saying, more clearly, that “the right of any major individual to marry the person of his or her choice is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of India and the said liberty relating to the personal relationships of two individuals cannot be encroached by anybody irrespective of caste or religion” (*Ramya G*, decided on December 1, 2020).

The latest judicial proclamation on the true constitutional position of interfaith marriages has come from the Calcutta High Court (*Palash*

*Sarkar*, decided on December 21, 2020). A Bengali Hindu girl married a Muslim and her father, bitterly displeased, made every possible attempt to unsettle the couple. She declared before the law and order agencies that she had married the man by her own free will, but her father assailed her statement on the ground of alleged coercion. The matter eventually reached the High Court, where a Division Bench, after satisfying itself of the veracity of her statement, ruled that if an adult woman converts and marries as per her choice, there could be no interference by any outside agency, including the courts.

The question is why the oft-repeated judicial exposition of the true constitutional position on interfaith marriages, despite being loud and clear, is not able to change social trends in this regard. The policies of ruling dispensations in some states, running conspicuously contrary to the juridical verdicts on the issue, lend a shoulder to anti-social elements to fire their guns from. Do we not recognise our higher courts any more as interpreters of law and dispensers of justice? If we really do not, are we still eligible to be reckoned among democratic nations of the world? Or, do we want to develop our own unique concept of a two-legged democracy resting on the legislature and executive only, with no space for the globally recognised third pillar of a democratic polity? Does anybody have an answer?

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Once-over, 5 Harp, 9 Slant, 10 Prevail, 11 On one’s uppers, 13 Filthy, 14 Please, 17 Ugly customer, 20 Involve, 21 Odium, 22 Eire, 23 Amethyst.  
**Down:** 1 Oust, 2 Channel, 3 Out in the cold, 4 Expose, 6 Aware, 7 Polished, 8 Keep a lookout, 12 Effusive, 15 Amenity, 16 Esteem, 18 Lever, 19 Omit.

## SU DO KU

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

V. EASY

## CALENDAR

DECEMBER 30, 2020, WEDNESDAY		
■ Vikrami Samvat	2077	
■ Shaka Samvat	1942	
■ Posh Shaka	9	
■ Posh Parvishite	16	
■ Hijari	1442	
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 15, up to 8:58 am		
■ Brahma Yoga up to 3.43 pm		
■ Aardra Nakshatra up to 6.55 pm		
■ Moon in Gemini sign		
■ Marghshirsh Purnima		

### YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

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

## FORECAST

<b>SUNSET:</b> 17:31 HRS		<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
<b>SUNRISE:</b> 07:20 HRS		<b>THURSDAY</b>	
<b>Sunny</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Cloudy</b>	<b>Rainy</b>
<b>Foggy</b>			
CITY	MAX	MIN	
Chandigarh	17	03	
New Delhi	19	04	
Amritsar	15	01	
Bathinda	17	02	
Jalandhar	15	02	
Ludhiana	16	02	
Bhiwani	19	03	
Hisar	17	02	
Sirsa	17	03	
Dharamsala	12	03	
Manali	08	-01	
Shimla	12	01	
Srinagar	10	-04	
Jammu	21	04	
Kargil	-09	-18	
Leh	-12	-20	
Dehradun	20	04	
Mussoorie	13	02	

TEMPERATURE IN °C



## CLASSIFIEDS

### SITUATION VACANT

**Required IELTS Trainer, Counsellor, Eng. Teacher for IELTS Centre at Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur, 77430-47342, 97815-30660, 98883-53381. (CL20078812)**

**Wanted Counselors for FCC under CSWB salary 10,000/- per month MSW/ Psychology send document/ on E-mail: rodhanda45@gmail.com (CL20078816)**

**Urgently needed experienced female IELTS Trainer for YDS Immigration Office, Garha, Jalandhar. Contact: 94662-60641. (CL20078819)**

**Yagmurti Missionary Hospital Mahkdoomra Jalandhar required part/full time M.S (Eye Surgeon). Contact immediately. 98143-17901. (CL20077263)**

**Yagmurti Goswami Ganeshdutt Missionary Hospital Mahkdoomra, Jalandhar required MD (Medicine), MBBS, BAMS. Contact immediately. 98143-17901. (CL20078818)**

**Brainfree world School, Amargarh, Affiliated to CBSE, requires following staff (1) PGT- History, Sociology, English (2) TGT- Computer Higher remuneration for deserving candidates. WhatsApp your resume on 95308-20000. (CL20078055)**

**Leading institute of IELTS Training. The Counselor Overseas Education invites applications for IELTS trainers and admission Counselors for its Bhogpur and Shahkot Branches. Candidates can send their latest resume by email at thecounselor.co.in@gmail.com 98880-18612. (CL20078831)**

**Chandigarh Roller Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. located at Banur, Punjab requires 1) Marketing Executive 2) Operations Manager 3) Supervisors. Prefer experience in Wheat Flour/ similar Industry. Attractive salary & learning environment. Interested candidates call: 97111-51086. Mail: crfmpunjab@gmail.com (CL20076606)**

**Jai Vatika Public School, Barnala (CBSE Affiliated Senior Secondary) is looking PGTs- (English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Pol. Science, History, Economics, Accounts) who have good command on the subject, excellent communication skills. Salary will not be constraint for the deserving candidates. In-campus accommodation for outstation candidates. Mail your resume at: jobs@jvps.ac.in. Contact 75081-81681. (CL20078545)**

**Sadhu Singh Shergill Academy Mukandpur (S.B.S. Nagar) - 144507. Affiliated to CBSE - 1630115. Requires PGTs - (Commerce, English, Mathematics, Biology, History, Pol. Science), TGTs - (Science, Social Science, Hindi, Punjab, Fine Art), PRTs - (5) B.Ed. is compulsory. Also requires:- Office Assistant, Music Teacher, DP, Badminton, Lawn Tennis & Table Tennis Coaches. Proficiency in English is compulsory. Pay Scale: As per 7th pay commission, DA and allowance as per school rules. Apply within 15 days at ss.shergillacademy@gmail.com, dr.singhamarjit@gmail.com Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. 01823-276239, 94631-01884. (CL20078610)**

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

**Circulation:**  
0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442  
**E-mail at**  
circulation@tribunemail.com  
**Advertisement:**  
**Classified:** 0172-2670257, 2670338  
**E-mail at**  
classified@tribunemail.com  
**Display:** 0172-2670256, 2670342  
**E-mail at** advt@tribunemail.com

### ADMISSION GUIDANCE

**Expert Guidance PHD (all streams) LLB, LL.M, Pharmacy, B.A, B.Com., MA, M.Com., BBA, MBA, B.Tech., M.Tech. Options for Government employees. Regular/distance. Contact: 95019-03221, 94175-30888. (CL20077179)**

### ASTROLOGY

**Why disappointed? Granted solutions, vashikaran karwana turwana, love marriage, travel abroad, business problem, get rid sultan, enemy debt immediately: 98153-69297. (CL20076676)**

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Fourteen marla, three storeyed, old maintain house, Sector 34, Chandigarh. Amrit Property 98140-39322. (CL20076668)**

### LAND FOR SALE

**Prime lands available surrounded by farmhouses, near T-point, New Chandigarh. Excellent location/ investment. Contact 94785-01691. (CL20078811)**

### COURT NOTICE

**Regd. Ad. P. Bench/ Ist Bench/ IInd Bench STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, PUNJAB SECTOR 37-A, DAKSHIN MARG, CHANDIGARH No. SCDCRP/2021/4241 DT. 23-12-2020**

**Execution Application No. 319 of 2020 in Consumer Complaint No. 1019 of 2018 filed for 10-02-2021**

**Savitri Miglani** Decree Holder/Complainant  
**Var Realtors Pvt. Ltd & Ors.** Judgment Debtors/Opposite Parties  
To 1. VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO Group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its Corporate office at S20 No. 16-17, Front portion, 3rd floor, Fortune Chambers, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana-14100, through its Director.  
2. VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO Group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its registered office at 5 Dhanraj Chambers, 1st Floor, Sathian, New Delhi-110074, through its Director.  
3. Anrick Singh Gambhir S/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh, the Director, VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its Corporate office at S20 No. 16-17, Front portion 3rd floor, Fortune Chambers, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana-14100.  
4. Anrick Singh Gambhir S/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh Director Var Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its registered office at 5 Dhanraj Chambers, 1st Floor, Sathian, New Delhi-110074.

**Whereas the above mentioned case has been filed before the state Commission, Punjab and whereas the commission is satisfied that respondents/opposite parties cannot be served in an ordinary manner. Hence, this proclamation is hereby issued against the above named respondents/ opposite parties directing him/them to appear before this commission either personally or through their authorized agent(s) of counsel on 10-02-2021 at 10:30 A.M. to answer and in the event of their non-appearance, it shall be presumed that they have nothing to say in the matter and the case shall be decided ex parte.**  
**Given under my hand and seal of the Commission on this date 22-12-2020**

**Sd/ Superintendent (Judicial) For Registrar**  
**CL20078614**

### LOST & FOUND

**It is notified for the information that my original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Secondary Examination of year March 2011, Roll No. 2212701 respectively issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Jashanpreet Singh s/o Hardev Singh, Vill Lalwa, P.O. & Teh. Patran, Distt. Patiala (Pb.). (CL20078623)**

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**I, Tegpreet Singh s/o Shamsher Singh r/o # 1, M.S. Enclave, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Punjab have changed my name to Tegpreet Singh Virk. (CL20078776)**

**I, Ramandeep Kaur w/o Tegpreet Singh r/o # 1, M.S. Enclave, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Punjab have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur Virk. (CL20078778)**

**I, Baldave Kaur wife of Jasvir Singh, Village Bamal (Sangur), have changed my name to Manjit Kaur. Both names are of mine. (CL20078792)**

**I, Lovejeet Singh s/o Baljeet Singh r/o VPO Koti, Kadeen, Sub-Tehsil Junga, District Shimla, HP, have changed my name to Lovejeet Singh Sandhu. (CL20078807)**

**I, Ragbir Singh Choudhary S/o Shobha Ram, r/o House No. 102, near Shanti Nagar, Ward No. 3, Nilokheri, Kamal, Haryana, have changed my name to Raghubir Keshavhar. (CL20078783)**

**I, Maya Devi W/o Lovejeet Singh Sandhu r/o VPO Koti, Kadeen, Sub Tehsil Junga, District Shimla, HP, have changed my name to Maya Thakur Sandhu. (CL20078790)**

**I, Jyoti Devi spouse of No. 2688847N NK Mukesh Kumar Vill. Nalsar, PO Raigarh, Tehsil Balh, Distt. Mandi HP, declare that I have changed my name Jyoti to Jyoti Devi DoB 27.04.1983 vide affidavit No. 16 AA 210882 before, Executive Magistrate. (CL20078833)**

**I, Hani Choudhary son of Army Number 13761935H, Rank Hav. Kamaljit, Village Panjastar, PO Raja Ka Talab, Tehsil Fatehpur, District Kangra (HP) declare that I have changed my name from Hani Choudhary to Honey Choudhary. Concerned note. (CL20078846)**

**I, Jasmeet Kaur Randhawa d/o Late Shri Narender Singh Randhawa r/o cottage- 5 Dev Bhoomi Mount View Kalka Shimla road Deoghat PO Saproon Solan HP, have changed my name from Jasmeet Randhawa to Jasmeet Kaur Randhawa. All concerns note. (CL20078815)**

**I, Bandha Sharma spouse of No 2687567N NK Krishan Chand Sharma, Vill. Dol, PO Gopalpur, Tehsil Sarkaghat, Distt. Mandi, declare that my name and Date of Birth wrongly mention in my husband Army record as Bandha Sharma 26.01.1983, correct name Bandha Kumari 02.02.1985 vide Affidavit 16AA 791984 Dated 29.12.20. (CL20078826)**

**I, Nanak Chand s/o Sh. Amar Nath r/o 94-C, Jawahar Market Nangal, Tehsil Nangal Distt. Rupnagar (Punjab) do hereby declare that my son Amit Kumar & his wife Nisha are out of my control. So I disown them from my moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk. Concerned note. (CL20078830)**

### COURT NOTICES

**Regd. Ad. P. Bench/ Ist Bench/ IInd Bench STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, PUNJAB SECTOR 37-A, DAKSHIN MARG, CHANDIGARH No. SCDCRP/2021/4200 DT. 23-12-2020**

**Execution Application No. 321 of 2020 in Consumer Complaint No. 1018 of 2018 filed for 10-02-2021**

**Sushli Miglani** Decree Holder/Complainant  
**Var Realtors Pvt. Ltd & Ors.** Judgment Debtors/Opposite Parties  
To 1. VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO Group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its Corporate office at S20 No. 16-17, Front portion, 3rd floor, Fortune Chambers, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana-14100, through its Director.  
2. VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO Group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its registered office at 5 Dhanraj Chambers, 1st Floor, Sathian, New Delhi-110074, through its Director.  
3. Anrick Singh Gambhir S/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh, the Director, VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its Corporate office at S20 No. 16-17, Front portion 3rd floor, Fortune Chambers, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana-14100.  
4. Anrick Singh Gambhir S/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh Director Var Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its registered office at 5 Dhanraj Chambers, 1st Floor, Sathian, New Delhi-110074.

**Whereas the above mentioned case has been filed before the state Commission, Punjab and whereas the commission is satisfied that respondents/opposite parties cannot be served in an ordinary manner. Hence, this proclamation is hereby issued against the above named respondents/ opposite parties directing him/them to appear before this commission either personally or through their authorized agent(s) of counsel on 10-02-2021 at 10:30 A.M. to answer and in the event of their non-appearance, it shall be presumed that they have nothing to say in the matter and the case shall be decided ex parte.**  
**Given under my hand and seal of the Commission on this date 22-12-2020**

**Sd/ Superintendent (Judicial) For Registrar**  
**CL20078611**

**Regd. Ad. P. Bench/ Ist Bench/ IInd Bench STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, PUNJAB SECTOR 37-A, DAKSHIN MARG, CHANDIGARH No. SCDCRP/2021/4199 DT. 23-12-2020**

**Execution Application No. 320 of 2020 in Consumer Complaint No. 1017 of 2018 filed for 10-02-2021**

**Harsitha Miglani** Decree Holder/Complainant  
**Var Realtors Pvt. Ltd & Ors.** Judgment Debtors/Opposite Parties  
To 1. VAR Realtors Pvt. Ltd. a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 (an IREO Group Company) now known as IREO Waterfront Pvt. Ltd., having its Corporate office at S20 No. 16-17, Front portion, 3rd floor, Fortune Chambers, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana-14100, through its Director.  
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**Given under my hand and seal of the Commission on this date 22-12-2020**

**Sd/ Superintendent (Judicial) For Registrar**  
**CL20078614**



### NORTHERN RAILWAY

**Material Management Department, Lucknow Division in association with RDSO is organising a "Vendor Development Exhibition" at 12:00 Hrs. on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 in DRM Office, Hazaratganj, Lucknow-226001.**

**Vendor Registration Helpdesk Numbers - Sh. Harikesh, ChDMS/LKO/DIV [Mob: 9794833772], Sh. Vinod Kumar, OS/LKO/DIV [Mob-9794845597], Sh DR Meena, ADMM/LKO/ DIV [Mob: 9794835591]. 28/06/2020**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

**This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Festival Special Trains as under:-**

Train No. & Name	Already Notified Up to	Extended Up to
08237 Korba - Amritsar Jn. Express Special	30.12.2020	29.01.2021
08238 Amritsar Jn. - Bilaspur Express Special	01.01.2021	31.01.2021
08215 Durg - Udhampur Express	30.12.2020	27.01.2021
08216 Udhampur - Durg Express	31.12.2020	28.01.2021
02883 Durg - N. Nizamuddin Superfast Festival Spl.	31.12.2020	30.01.2021
02884 H. Nizamuddin - Durg Superfast Festival Spl.	01.01.2021	31.01.2021
02521 Barauni - Ernakulam Festival Special	30.12.2020	27.01.2021
02522 Ernakulam - Barauni Festival Special	03.01.2021	31.01.2021
02397 Gaya - New Delhi Festival Special	31.12.2020	30.01.2021
02398 New Delhi - Gaya Festival Special	01.01.2021	31.01.2021
05251 Darbhanga - Jalandhar City Festival Special	26.12.2020	30.01.2021
05252 Jalandhar City - Darbhanga Festival Special	27.12.2020	31.01.2021
05531 Saharsa - Amritsar Festival Special	27.12.2020	31.01.2021
05532 Amritsar - Saharsa Festival Special	28.12.2020	01.02.2021
05267 Raxaul - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Festival Special	26.12.2020	30.01.2021
05268 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Raxaul Festival Special	28.12.2020	01.02.2021
05529 Saharsa - Anand Vihar (T) Festival Special	30.12.2020	27.01.2021
05530 Anand Vihar (T) - Saharsa Festival Special	31.12.2020	28.01.2021
02355 Patna - Jammu Tawi Festival Special	29.12.2020	30.01.2021
02356 Jammu Tawi - Patna Festival Special	30.12.2020	31.01.2021
03255 Patliputra - Chandigarh Festival Special	30.12.2020	31.01.2021
03256 Chandigarh - Patliputra Festival Special	31.12.2020	01.02.2021
05211 Darbhanga - Amritsar Festival Special	31.12.2020	29.01.2021
05212 Amritsar - Darbhanga Festival Special	02.01.2021	31.01.2021
05269 Muzaffarpur - Ahmedabad Festival Special	31.12.2020	28.01.2021
05270 Ahmedabad - Muzaffarpur Festival Special	02.01.2021	30.01.2021
02237 Varanasi Jn. - Jammu Tawi Express Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
02238 Jammu Tawi - Varanasi Jn. Express Special	01.01.2021	01.02.2021
04041 Delhi Jn. - Dehradun Mussoorie Express Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
04042 Dehradun - Delhi Jn. Mussoorie Express Special	01.01.2021	01.02.2021
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
02232 Chandigarh - Lucknow Express Special	01.01.2021	01.02.2021
02448 H. Nizamuddin - Manikpur Jn. Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
02447 Manikpur Jn. - H. Nizamuddin Special	01.01.2021	01.02.2021
04321 Bareilly - Bhuj Express Special	30.12.2020	31.01.2021
04322 Bhuj - Bareilly Express Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
04311 Bareilly - Bhuj Ala Hazrat Express Special	31.12.2020	30.01.2021
04312 Bhuj - Bareilly Ala Hazrat Express Special	30.12.2020	29.01.2021
02422 Jammu Tawi - Ajmer Superfast Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
02421 Ajmer - Jammu Tawi Superfast Special	01.01.2021	01.02.2021

**Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.**

**For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Your Convenience - Our Concern  
Visit us at : [nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://nr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Please join us on

## HARYANA STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Bays No. 15-20, Pocket-II, Sector 4, Panchkula Phone No. 0172-2580359

### ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited to fill up posts of Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee & Member Child Welfare Committee/Juvenile Justice Board as per provisions under Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 as per following qualification, terms and conditions:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	District wise number of posts
1	Chairperson (Child Welfare Committee)	Amambala
1	Member (Child Welfare Committee)	Bhivani-1 Post & Rohtak-2 Post
2	Member (Juvenile Justice Board)	Faridabad-1 Post (reserved for Female) & Sirsa-1 Post

**Qualification of JJB Member:** Minimum seven years experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities, or should be a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or sociology or in the field of law.

**Age of JJB Member:** Not less than 35 years on the date of Advertisement.

**Qualification of Chairperson/ Member of CWC:** Seven years of experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities, or should be a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or sociology or in the field of law or a retired Judicial Officer.

**Age of CWC Chairperson and Member:** Above the age of 35 years on the date of advertisement

**Tenure:** Three years  
**Honorarium:** Member of the Juvenile Justice Board, Chairperson and Member, Child Welfare Committee shall be paid as per sitting which shall include sitting allowance, travel allowance and any other allowance, as the State Government may prescribe.

### Terms & Conditions:

- Applicant must have a domicile of Haryana.
- Applicant will maintain his/her headquarters as the presence is required even at odd hours or on short notice and the appointment will be cancelled if headquarters is not maintained.
- Applicant shall have to submit a self-declaration/affidavit on the following points with application form: All conditions from (i) to (vi) of the following point must be fulfilled.
  - He/she has not been involved in any immoral act or in the Act of Child abuse or employment of child labour.
  - He/she is not holding such other full time occupation that does not allow him/ her to give necessary time and attention to the work.
  - He/she will give details about his/her Previous/ Present post tenure in any district of Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare Committee.
  - No enquiry is pending against him/ her in any agency/ court.
  - The applicant should not have any past record of violation of human rights or child rights.
  - The applicant should not have been removed or dismissed from service of the Central Government or a State Government or an undertaking or Corporation owned or controlled by the Central Government or a State Government.
- Willing candidates may send/submit their application form on the prescribed format on or before **29.01.2021 till 5.00 P.M.** along with supporting documents i.e., educational qualification and experience certificate etc. in the office of concerned District Programme Officer, Women and Child Development of respective district.
- Direct application received at Headquarters of WCD, will be rejected.
- Department has reserved the right to reject the incomplete application form without any prior notice of the candidate.
- Incomplete Application form in any manner will be rejected.
- Prescribed Application Proforma may be downloaded from the departmental website [www.wcdhry.gov.in](http://www.wcdhry.gov.in).

**Member Secretary,**  
**Haryana State Child Protection Society,**  
**Women and Child Development Department,**  
**Haryana, Panchkula.**

PRDH/1128/11/2021/1133/31/4

## Migratory birds found dead

**Nurpur:** Hundreds of migratory birds of different species were found dead along the Pong lake in the Sidhatha area of Fatehpur subdivision in Kangra district on Monday. The authorities are yet to ascertain the exact cause. — OC

# Faculty crunch affects study at tainted MBU

**AMBIKA SHARMA**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SOLAN, DECEMBER 29**

With nearly 30 of the 80 faculty members having resigned, the online study at the tainted Manav Bharti University embroiled in a fake degree scam, near here, has been severely hit.

Online studies had resumed from October 15 after general manager, district industries centre, Rajiv Kumar, had been appointed its administrator by the government. Six courses in engineering, computer science, management, law, pharmacy and humanities were being run where about 1,000 students were enrolled.

“About 30 faculty members have resigned after the university resumed its online functioning since October 15. This has created a paucity of staff for conducting online classes. Only faculty for engineering was no longer required as its batch had completed its course”, informed Rajiv Kumar, university’s administrator.

He added that efforts were afoot to appoint new faculty for management, humanities, sciences, pharmaceutical sciences as well as computer sciences. “As many as 32 faculty members of professor, associate professor as well as assistant professor besides lab technicians were required for smooth conduct of the online classes and subsequent exams”, he said.

No fresh admission has been permitted by the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission for the academic session 2020-2021. Only students enrolled in previous years have been permitted to complete their courses.

Though a new account has been opened and fee received from the students was being used to meet the expenses like the salary of faculty members, it remains to be seen if it could help sustain the university working.

A large number of students wanted to seek migration from the university in view of registration of several cases under sections 420, 467, 471 and 120-B of the IPC for cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy against the management in March. Their plea was, however, denied as all documents like detailed mark sheet, answer sheets, etc. have been seized by the police for investigation.

“A large number of queries were being received for migration but we are unable to accede to their request as all documents have been seized by the police



Dense fog disrupts flight operations

Ladakh gets own Met centre

**JAMMU, DECEMBER 29**  
Seventeen flights to and from the Jammu airport were cancelled as dense fog engulfed the region on Tuesday, a day after high-altitude areas, including the Vaishno Devi Shrine, received the season's first heavy snowfall, officials said.

Pravat Ranjan Beuria, Director, Jammu airport, said all but one flight scheduled for the day were cancelled due to "poor visibility". "Only one flight could land at the Jammu airport around 3 pm, while rest of the 17 flights scheduled to operate to and from Jammu were cancelled," Beuria said. He said poor visibility remained the major problem throughout the day.

"The visibility was around zero at 9 am and remained much below the required level (1,000 to 1,200 metres) during the day, prompting the cancellation of all flights.



Foggy conditions led to poor visibility in Jammu region. PTI

Only one flight could land when the visibility improved for a brief period," the director

17 FLIGHTS CANCELLED

“Only one flight could land at the Jammu airport around 3 pm when the visibility improved for a brief period, while rest of the 17 flights scheduled to operate to and from Jammu were cancelled.”

Pravat Ranjan Beuria, DIRECTOR, JAMMU AIRPORT

VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE SEES HEAVY SNOWFALL

The Vaishno Devi Shrine in Reasi experienced its first snowfall, while Patnitop hill station in Udhampur and the upper reaches of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban also experienced fresh snowfall.

Normal life was hit across the Jammu plains by the dense fog and chilly

weather; the officials said. The fog cleared in most parts by the noon, providing some

relief to the people even as the winter Sun remained hidden behind the clouds, they added.

The minimum temperature in Jammu fell by over two notches compared to the previous night to settle at 3.7 degrees Celsius, a spokesperson of the Met Department said. He said the city recorded a maximum of 12.5 degrees Celsius against the previous day's 13.2 degrees Celsius, which is also 6.5 degrees below season's average.

The cold wave intensified after the day and night temperatures plunged below the season's average following moderate to heavy snowfall in the high-altitude areas in most parts of Jammu region.

The Vaishno Devi Shrine in Reasi experienced its first snowfall, while Patnitop hill station in Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban, also witnessed fresh snowfall. — PTI

TO FORECAST WEATHER AT TOURIST SPOTS

The meteorological centre will also forecast weather at tourist places such as Nubra, Changthang, Pangong Lake, Zaskar, Kargil, Drass, Dha-Baima (Aryan valley), Khalsi, Union Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

degrees Celsius in Drass to scanty average precipitation of 10 centimetres annually, which makes the region a distinct cold desert, he said. Ladakh also experiences various kinds of extreme weather events like cloud bursts, flash floods, glacial lake outbursts, avalanches and drought.

"To avert losses due to such weather events in the future, the Centre felt the need to establish a meteorological centre at Leh to strengthen the weather-related early warning system in Ladakh. At 3,500

metres, Meteorological Centre, Leh, will be the highest meteorological centre in India," Vardhan said.

The centre will also forecast weather of tourist places such as Nubra, Changthang, Pangong Lake, Zaskar, Kargil, Drass, Dha-Baima (Aryan valley), Khalsi, he said.

Some important services are highway forecast, forecast for mountaineering, trekking, agriculture, flash flood warning, information on gusty winds, low and high temperatures. — PTI

Mufti slams Centre over agri laws

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 29**  
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday asserted that the Gupkar alliance was striving to achieve the restoration of special status of Jammu and Kashmir "within the Constitution of the country".

She also criticised the BJP-led government at the Centre over the three agri laws, which had triggered protests by a section of farmers. "The government brought farms laws, but the farmers are out on the roads protesting in the chilly winter."

"If the laws are not accepted by the farmers, can those be beneficial to them? If you bring laws which are not acceptable to the people, you are disrespecting the Constitution of the country," she said while addressing a party function here.

She also accused the Centre of disrespecting the

'GOVT DISRESPECTING CONSTITUTION'

“If the laws are not accepted by farmers, can those be beneficial to them? If you bring laws which are not acceptable to the people, you are disrespecting the Constitution of the country.”

Mehbooba Mufti, PDP CHIEF

Constitution by repealing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former Chief Minister, who was an ally of the BJP from 2015 to 2018, said the mainstream political parties in Kashmir were working to achieve their goal of restoration of the special status "within the Constitution of the country".

"The National Conference talks about autonomy, it is within the Constitution. We (PDP) talk of self-rule, open borders, reconciliation — how long can you maintain peace through the barrel of the gun?" she asked.

The PDP president said the resolution of the Kashmir issue was a cause close to her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's heart. — PTI

Hurt in Shopian encounter, jawan dies

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 29**  
An Army jawan who was injured in an encounter with militants last week in Shopian district has succumbed to injuries, officials said here on Tuesday.

Havildar AK Tomar succumbed to injuries at the Army's 92 Base Hospital here on Monday, the officials said. They said Tomar had sustained grievous injuries during a gunfight with militants in the Kanigam area of Shopian on Friday. Two militants were killed in the operation. The Army paid tribute to Havildar Tomar at the Badamibagh Cantonment here. Tomar (40) is survived by his wife and two children. — PTI

234 fresh cases in J&K

Not adhering to social distancing norms, Kashmiri Pandit migrants submit forms for government jobs in Jammu on Tuesday. PTI

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 29**  
Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 234 fresh Covid cases, while four more persons died due to the infection in the past 24 hours, officials said.

The union territory's Covid tally has mounted to 1,20,527 and the death toll stands at 1,879, they said.

Out of the fresh cases, 131 were from Kashmir and 103 from the Jammu division. The officials said Srinagar recorded the highest of 69 cases, followed by 65 in Jammu district. The number of active cases has dropped to 3,088, while 11,556 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. — PTI

Talks today, farmers firm on 4 demands

Harinder Singh Lakhowal, BKU (Lakhowal) general secretary, meanwhile, said: "We are going for talks with the government with an open mind, but the latter's intention is not clear. The Centre wants the impasse to continue and defame the protest."

"We will organise a tractor march on December 31 if the government doesn't accept our demands," he added.

Dissociating from vandalisation of mobile towers, he said: "We only appealed to people to give up connection of a particular telecom company." Thousands of farmers have been protesting against the three agricultural laws for the past 33 days at the Delhi borders.

Pbcops in spot over 'illegal'..

He claimed that there was a gap of more than two hours when he left the police station and took the medical test, which raised doubts over his claims. Besides, the injury marks did not suggest third degree torture, he added.

**Ropar SSP refutes allegation of torture**

Ajinder Singh, SP claimed after questioning, Rajbir was sent home and was told to appear again on December 27. Meanwhile, on a plea filed by Rajbir's wife, the High Court has issued a notice of motion for January 8 to the state government and the Ropar SSP.

HARYANA WELFARE SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH SPEECH & HEARING IMPAIRMENT, OPP. Kothi No. 275, Sec-16, Panchkula.

Phone No.: 0172-2572301

(Registered Under Societies Registration Act, 1860)

Website: <http://www.hwspshi.org>

TENDER NOTICE

The Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech & Hearing Impairment, Panchkula invites limited tender for procurement of IT and broadcast equipment. Detailed tender is available on the Website <http://www.hwspshi.org>

Place: Panchkula

Dated: 28.12.2020

Sd/- Organising Secretary, Haryana Welfare Society for persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment, Panchkula.

DI-17057

Department of Employment Generation, Skill Development & Training, Punjab

SCO No. 47/1, 1st floor, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh,

0172-2702654

Public Notice for Recruitment

DBEE (District Bureau of Employment and Enterprises) under the Department of Employment Generation, Skill Development & Training, Punjab invites applications for the following 3 posts to be filled on contractual basis:

(i) Social Media Co-ordinator = 1 (General)

(ii) Social Media Executive = 1 (General)

(iii) Graphic Designer = 1 (General)

Last date for Submission of applications is 22.01.2021 up to 5:00 P.M.

For details, Qualification, experience, remuneration and application proforma kindly visit our website [www.pbemployment.punjab.gov.in](http://www.pbemployment.punjab.gov.in) Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Director,

Employment Generation Skill Development and Training, Punjab.

DPR/Pb/212

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB

Tender Notice Reference No. E-tender/WSSD/BARNALA/2020-21/10

The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Barnala invites Online Bids for following:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDING FOR SUB DIVISION OFFICE MEHAL KALAN AT BARNALA (AT WATER WORKS SITE AMLA SINGH WALA) DISTRICT BARNALA IN PUNJAB Under Component 4 (B).	As per approved DNIT Approx. Amount 39.81 Lac Time Limit 9 Months EMD Rs. 79500/- Bid Processing Fee as Per Website

Date of starting of bids online submission: DATE 04.01.2021 at 12:00 Hours  
Closing date & time: DATE 21.01.2021 at 17:00 HOURS  
Technical Bid opening date: DATE 22.01.2021 TIME 11:00 HOURS  
For Details of work & terms & conditions of DNIT Login to: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Barnala.

DPR/Pb/231

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE: (i) PGI/Engg./Elect./2020/129

The Hospital Engineer (Electrical), PGIMER, Chandigarh re-invites on behalf of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh Online Percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB/MC Chandigarh/State PWDs/UDA/UDA/State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Electrical Works on two bid system (Eligibility cum Technical & Financial Bid), who fulfil the Eligibility Criteria for the "Supply and installation of streetlight poles along the boundary wall from DDTC to New OPD and from Kairon Block to NHE Road, Sector-12, PGI, Chandigarh.", Estimated Cost- Rs. 17.13 Lakh, Earnest Money- Rs. 34,260/-, Period of Completion- Four Months. The last date & time of submission of bid is 13.01.2021 up to 03:00 p.m. The last date and time of submission of Original EMD in physical form is 13.01.2021 up to 03:15 p.m. The date and time of opening of Eligibility cum Technical Bid is 14.01.2021 at 03:30 p.m. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid is to be declared later.

The original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of H.E. (Elect.) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and official website of the PGIMER <http://pgimer.edu.in>. Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for participating in e-tendering process (Help desk No. for registering - 9988447883).

DI-17033

HOSPITAL ENGINEER (ELECT.)

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

OPEN AUCTION OF WOODEN SCRAP

Lot wise open auction of various condemned Wooden Scrap (Various packing Materials, Old damaged/broken wooden beds & other wooden items etc.) will be held on 19.01.2021 at 03.00 P.M. in the Animal House of PGIMER, Chandigarh. Persons/ Firms dealing in the above said may participate in the auction.

Before the start of auction, interested persons/firms have to deposit Rs. 1,000/- (One Thousand) cash as security amount (refundable). The security amount will not be adjusted in final amount of successful bidder. The security amount will be refunded to bidder after lifting all the auctioned material from the site. The highest bidder will deposit 25% of the amount immediately after the bid. The balance amount should be deposited in account of PGIMER, Chandigarh within 4 working days from the date and time of the auction. In case of failure, the security amount will be forfeited. Material can be inspected any working day from dated 11.01.2021 to 18.11.2021 during working hours.

All Taxes/GST (if applicable) will be borne by the bidder.

All the arrangement to lift/transport the material will be borne by the bidder.

The Director, PGI, reserves the right to accept or reject any/all bids without any prior notice and reason.

\* Please note & follow the following instructions:

1. Only bidder will be allowed to attend in the auction area.

2. All participant will cover their Face properly with face mask or other mode is mandatory.

3. Strictly social distancing will be maintained by themselves.

DI-17031

DIRECTOR

ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਗੋਬਿੰਦਗੜ੍ਹ।

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GOBINDGARH

Ph. No. 01765-505368, Fax No. 01765-505332

E-mail: [mcgvg@gmail.com](mailto:mcgvg@gmail.com)

Ref. 3301

Dated: 29.12.2020

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Tender Reference No.: E-tender-ME/AME/029(2020)

E-tender-ME/AME/030(2020)

The Department of

: Municipal Council, Gobindgarh, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib invites bid for Civil and Supply Works.

Closing Date and Time

: Closing Date: 11/01/2021 Time up to 10:00 a.m. Closing Date: 11/01/2021 Time up to 10:00 a.m.

For details login to

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

Note:-

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

Sd/- Asstt Municipal Engineer,

Sd/- Executive Officer,

Sd/- Administrator,

Municipal Council,

Municipal Council,

Municipal Council,

Gobindgarh,

Gobindgarh,

Gobindgarh.

DPR/Pb/245

ADVERTISEMENT

Office of The Commandant, 4th Bn. HAP, Madhuban Distt. Karnal, HARYANA.

Ten Horses/Mares (Tharo Breed & Half Tharo Breed) are to be purchased for the Haryana Armed Police, Mounts shall be between four and six years of age, not less than 14 hands two inch in height (58") capable of carrying 13 stone and suitable for Police work. No purchase shall be concluded until the Horse has been certified as healthy and sound and of the prescribed age by qualified Veterinary Surgeon/Officer. Interested firms may send their quotations in sealed envelope through registered post or by hand to the undersigned in the office up to 01.01.2021 on the following Proforma:-

1. Breed

2. Age

3. Height

4. Health

5. Demand Price

6. Medical fitness certificate

NOTE:-

Owner will be responsible to get the horse castrated at his own level and pregnant mares will not be accepted. To this effect a medical certificate will have to be submitted by the owner.

Sd/- Commandant,

4th Bn. HAP, Madhuban.

PRDH/1084/11/12/2021/1138/31/4

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਿਮਿਟਡ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ

(ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਅਦਾਰਾ)

ਦਫਤਰ ਮੋਹਰ ਚੰਦ ਰੋਡ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ

ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਿਮਿਟਡ, ਮੋਹਰ ਚੰਦ ਰੋਡ, ਨਜ਼ਦੀਕ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਰਿਸ਼ੋਰ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਅਤੇ ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ ਦੇ ਬਲਾਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਿੱਠੇ ਭੋਜੀ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਅਧੀਨ ਐਫ.ਸੀ.ਐਚ. ਡਿਪਾਰਟਮੈਂਟ ਤੋਂ ਅਨਾਜ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਸ਼ਰੂਆਤਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਣਕ/ਚਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਪਲਾਈ ਲਈ ਢੋਆ-ਢੁਆਈ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ 01.01.2021 ਤੋਂ 31.12.2021 ਤੱਕ ਲਈ ਚਾਰਵਾਨ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟਰ ਨੋਟੀਫਿਕੇਸ਼ਨ/ਟਰੱਕ ਯੂਨੀਅਨ/ਢੋਆ-ਢੁਆਈ ਦੇ ਹੋਰ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਭਾਗੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੋਹਰਚੰਦ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਹੇਠ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ।

	ਮਿਤੀ/ਸਮਾਂ	ਸਮਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਾਨ
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ	ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ 01.01.2021 ਤੱਕ ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ (ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ)	ਦਫਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪਨਸਪੁਰ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ	05.01.2021 ਸਵੇਰੇ 11:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸਵੇਰੇ 12:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ	ਦਫਤਰ ਮਾਣਯੋਗ ਵਪਾਰੀ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹਣ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ	05.01.2021 ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12:15 ਵਜੇ	ਦਫਤਰ ਮਾਣਯੋਗ ਵਪਾਰੀ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ

1. ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਦੀ ਕੀਮਤ, ਬਿਆਨ/ਜ਼ਮਾਨਤ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪਨਸਪੁਰ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਜੋ ਟੈਂਡਰਕਰਮ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹਨ।

2. ਟੈਂਡਰ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਗਮ ਦੇ ਚਿੱਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਦੇਸ਼ ਚੋਰ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਸਹੀ:- ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪਨਸਪੁਰ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ/ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ।

DPR/Pb/244

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

Bays No. 67-70, Sec.-2, Panchkula — 134151

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

EXAMINATION NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE CANDIDATES FOR REQUISITION RE-EXAMINATION (OMR BASED) FOR THE POST OF ART & CRAFTS TEACHER, AGAINST ADVT. NO. 06/2006, CAT. NO. 22.

Reference Haryana Staff Selection Commission written examination notice dated 20.10.2015 for the post of Art & Craft Teacher against Advt. No. 6/2006, Category No. 22 which was held/issued on 29.11.2015 in compliance of orders dated 20.02.2015 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 18482 of 2010 and thereafter re-examination notice dated 11/04/2017 (Which could not be held).

And whereas Division Bench of Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana, High Court vide order dated 10.11.2020 dismissed LPA No. 359 of 2015 (O&M) titled as Vinod Kumar & Others V/S State of Haryana & Others and directed that the judgment rendered by Supreme Court in Ramjit Singh Kardam's case (PTI Case) would certainly apply in the present case as well and now the SLP filed against the said judgment has also been dismissed. Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of all concerned who had earlier applied for the post of Art & Crafts Teachers against Advt. No. 6/2006, Cat. No. 22, that the Haryana Staff Selection Commission will conduct examination for 816 posts of Art & Crafts Teacher advertised vide Advt. No. 6/2006, Cat. No. 22 on dated 31.01.2021 (Sunday) from 10:30 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. as per schedule given below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Advt. No.	Cat. No.	Date & Time of Examination	Place
1.	Art & Crafts Teacher, Education Department Haryana	06/2006	22	31.01.2021 (Sunday) (Morning Session) from 10:30 A.M to 11:45 A.M. Reporting/Entry Time 08:30 A.M. (No Entry after 09:30 A.M.)	As per admit card

2. Selection Criteria

Total Marks: 225

I. Written Examination ..... 200 Marks

The written examination for the above post will comprise of 100 multiple choice questions and divided into two portions comprising:

A). There will be 100 objective type multiple choice questions (60 questions relating to academic knowledge of the respective subject for which candidates is appearing in the test and 40 questions relating to General Knowledge, General English & Hindi upto Matric Standard. Each question will carry two marks).

B). The candidates will have to secure the minimum qualifying marks in the written test as mentioned below:

a) General Category - 50%

b) SC, BC - 45%

c) ESM - 40%

d) DESM and Outstanding sports persons - As for General, SC, BC candidates as the case may be

II. Viva-Voce/Interview ..... 25 Marks

Candidates equal to three times of the number of vacancies will be called for interview based on their performance in the written test. The total marks obtained in the written test and viva-voce will determine the merit of the candidates in their respective categories.

A list of candidates who had applied against Advertisement. No. 06/2006, Cat. No. 22 is available on the website of HSSC i.e. [www.hssc.gov.in](http://www.hssc.gov.in). The candidates are advised to go through the list before downloading the Admit card. If any candidate does not find mention name in the list he/she shall approach the Commission's office till 06.01.2021 with original fee proof/Roll No. Slip etc. for the post of Art & Crafts Teacher against Advt. No. 06/2006, Cat. No. 22.

Admit Card for written examination of the candidates will be uploaded on the Commission Website i.e. [www.hssc.gov.in](http://www.hssc.gov.in). The candidates can download the admit cards from the Commission Website from 22.01.2021 onwards. Candidates are advised to read the instructions on the Admit Card carefully and follow the same strictly.

No separate information will be sent to the candidates by the Commission through post or any other media. Candidate must keep him/herself updated with official website of commission.

3. IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR WRITTEN EXAMINATION ARE AVAILABLE ON COMMISSION'S WEBSITE i.e. [www.hssc.gov.in](http://www.hssc.gov.in) WHICH SHOULD BE GONE THROUGH BEFORE COMING FOR EXAMINATION.

Sd/- Secretary,

for Secretary Haryana Staff Selection Commission.

Panchkula.

Place: Panchkula

Dated: 28th December, 2020

PRDH/1159/13/3/2021/1142/31/4





हरीयाणा शहस्री  
विकास प्राशिकरण

Sector-18, Near Toll Plaza, Panipat Phone No. 0180-2577018

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि माननीय मुख्य प्रशासक ह.श.वि.प्रा., पंचकूला की अध्यक्षता में हुई मीटिंग दिनांक 04.09.2020 में पारित आदेशों अनुसार पानीपत सम्प्रदा में प्लॉट नं. 71, सेक्टर 29 भाग 1, प्लॉट नं. 31, सेक्टर 25 भाग 1, प्लॉट नं. 141, सेक्टर 29 भाग 2, प्लॉट नं. 34-पी, सेक्टर 29 भाग 2, प्लॉट नं. 585, सेक्टर 29 भाग 2 कथित प्लॉटों के जो नियतन पत्र/बहाल पत्र जारी किए गए थे उन नियतन पत्र/बहाल पत्रों, जब तक प्रतिक्रित जांच पूरी नहीं हो जाती, को तब तक वापस लिया गया है। जिसकी सूचना संबंधित अलाटियों को पंजीकृत पत्र द्वारा भेजी गई थी। जिनमें से कुछ निरस्त पत्र बार-बार जारी करने पर भी इस कार्यालय में वापस आ गए हैं। अतः संबंधित को इस सूचना द्वारा अवगत करवाया जाता है कि आपके प्लॉट जो नियतन पत्र/बहाल पत्र जारी किए गए थे उन नियतन पत्र/बहाल पत्रों को जब तक प्रतिक्रित जांच पूरी नहीं हो जाती, को तब तक वापस लिया गया सम्झा जाए।

**सम्प्रदा अधिकारी**  
**ह.श.वि.प्रा. पानीपत।**

PRDH/1083/11/1/2021/1147/31/4

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is informed that the vehicle(s) registered under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 with the Registration Authorities in the State of Punjab after 12/06/1989 are required to confirm and be in compliance with provisions under Sections 39, 41 (6) & 217 (d) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and the notification issued under Section 41(6) bearing No. 444 E dated: 12/06/1989.

It has been found that some vehicles registered after 12.06.1989 have been assigned registration mark (registration number) other than the "PB" State code and other part of the registration mark, which are not in conformity with the above mentioned provision of the law.

All the owner(s) of such vehicle(s) are directed to apply to the concerned Registration Authority where the vehicle was registered and assigned the Registration Mark, for assigning the Registration Mark in conformity with the above provisions of law by 31/03/2021. Owner(s) of such vehicle(s) seeking number of their choice i.e. Reserved Numbers (Fancy), they may do so as per Notification No. 10/51/2017-172/1163, dated 19.10.2020 and Notification No. 10/51/2017-172/1365, dated 10.12.2020 issued under Rule 42-A of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

At the time of the issuance of the new registration certificate, containing the registration mark in conformity with the above provisions of law, the old original document i.e. the registration certificate shall be surrendered with the registration authority.

Starting 01/04/2021 any vehicle registered after 12.06.1989 under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 is found playing on the roads having the Registration mark not in conformity with the above provisions of law shall be illegal and liable for penal action, as required under law.

**Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,  
Department of Transport.**

DPR/Pb/217

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, PUNJAB**

Applications are invited for availing assistance under Plan Scheme -PM-6 "Assistance to NGO's" for the year 2020-21 for the construction of 40 Cattle Sheds each with a holding capacity of 50 adult animals @ 5'x6' (30 sq.ft.) per adult animal from voluntary/Non Government organizations (Gaushalas/N.G.O's) duly registered under Societies Registration ACT, 1860 and also registered with Punjab Gau Sewa Commission.

The application should be accompanied by architectural design and cost estimates duly certified by a registered architect.

Application Form & other details can be seen at the website of Department of Animal Husbandry - **www.husbandrypunjab.org**.

Applications should reach O/o Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Livestock Complex, Sector 68, Near Army Institute of Law, Sahibjada Ajit Singh Nagar by 29 January, 2021 through the Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry of respective district and duly recommended by Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district. Applications reached after due date will not be considered.

**Sd/- Director Animal Husbandry,  
Punjab.**

DPR/Pb/252

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

**Tender Notice No.: 05 Date: 28.12.2020**

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, PWD B&R Br., Jalandhar Cantt. invites bids from eligible Bidders enlisted Under "All Road Works" category with PWD (B&R) for the works approved under **SPECIAL REPAIR PROGRAMME 2020-21 (PHASE-3) of LINK ROADS** falling under his jurisdiction detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for following work(s):-

Sr. No.	Name of MC	Group No's whose tenders being called	Total No. of groups	Name of Work
1	2	3	4	
1	Jalandhar City	1 to 4	4	COMPACTION OF EARTH WORK DONE BY VILLAGERS TO OPEN GRADED P.C. FOR SPECIAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS FALLING IN M.C. JALANDHAR CITY IN DISTT. JALANDHAR (GROUP No. 1 to 4) UNDER SPECIAL REPAIR PROGRAMME 2020-21 (PHASE-3) OF LINK ROADS.

4 **Availability of tender online from:** 29.12.2020 to 18.01.2021

5 **Last date and time of submission of tender online:** 18.01.2021 at 05.00 p.m.

6 **Tender Opening Date:** 19.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m.

\*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.  
\*Corrigendum, if any, will only be issued on website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Constn. Divn. No. 2, PWD B&R Br.,  
Jalandhar Cantt.**

DPR/Pb/233

**PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD  
NOTICE INVITING OF e-TENDERS (2020-21)**

**eproc.punjab.gov.in**

**E-Tender Notice No. PWSBS/Divn.2/HASRC-9 Date: 29.12.2020**

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Bid Security/ Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document/ Tender fee (Rs.)	Period of completion
1.	DNIT for Survey, Soil testing, Design, Supply and Construction, installation, Commissioning of 8 MLD STP at Patti Town based on any suitable, sustainable and proven technology including, other appurtenant works on turnkey basis as per DNIT, Including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 60 months after stabilization period of 3 months or more.	9,60,000/-	1000/- As Applicable	12 Months

**Estimated Cost (in Lacs):** Lump Sum

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

- Period of availability of tender Online shall be: 29.12.2020 to 13.01.2021
- Last Date & Time for online submission of Bids shall be: 13.01.2021 at 1:00 p.m.
- Date and Time for Opening of Technical bids shall be: 14.01.2021 at 3:00 p.m.

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

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

eproc.punjab.gov.in



**GLOBE TROT**

**Trans beauty pageant finalist makes history in Nepal**

**KATHMANDU:** When Angel Lama sashays down the catwalk in the Miss Universe Nepal finals on Wednesday she will make history as the first such Nepal transgender woman. It comes after new management relaxed the criteria for height, weight and appearance, and allowed any woman between 18 and 28 years to participate. REUTERS

**'Buy 1 get 1' food promos may be banned in England**

**LONDON:** The UK has set out plans to ban unhealthy promotions on food and drinks high in fat, salt or sugar from April 2022. The new rules will prohibit retailers from offering multibuy promotions such as 'buy one get one' or '3 for 2' offers on these products. Unhealthy promotions will also no longer be featured in key locations. PTI

**Quake jolts Croatia**



- An earthquake of 6.4 magnitude struck Petrinja town in Croatia on Tuesday.
- PM Adrej Plenkovic said people had to be moved from Petrinja as it was unsafe
- It killed 2 people, including a kid, injured several others and damaged houses.
- The earthquake forced authorities in Slovenia to shut their nuclear power plant

**BUSINESS**

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹73.42	₹89.92	₹99.06	₹0.71	₹11.24	₹57.31	₹55.77	₹55.28	₹9.47



**BSE**  
259.33  
47,613.08



**NSE**  
59.40  
13,932.60



**GOLD**  
₹50,220  
(MCX)




**SILVER**  
₹68,200  
(MCX)

**Markets on a roll: Sensex, Nifty scale new heights**

**MUMBAI, DECEMBER 29**

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty scaled fresh record highs on Tuesday, extending their bull run for the fifth straight session on the back of gains in banking and IT stocks.



**FIFTH STRAIGHT SESSION OF GAINS**

- The BSE gauge Sensex settled with gains of 259.33 points at a new closing high of 47,613.08
- Likewise, the NSE barometer Nifty ended higher by 59.40 points at a fresh closing high of 13,932.60
- IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, HDFC, ICI-CI Bank, HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, SBI and ITC were major gainers

The BSE gauge Sensex settled with gains of 259.33 points at a new closing high of 47,613.08.

Starting off on a bullish note, the 30-share index went on to hit its all-time intraday high of 47,714.55 before paring some gains.

Likewise, the Nifty ended higher by 59.40 points at a fresh closing high of 13,932.60. Intraday, the 50-share Nifty marked its all-time record at 13,967.60. — PTI

**Kashmir-born Aisha in Biden digital team**

**WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 29**

US President-elect Joe Biden has announced members of his White House Office of Digital Strategy, where Kashmir-born Aisha Shah has bagged a senior position.

Shah has been named Partnerships Manager at the White House Office of Digital Strategy, which would be headed by Rob Flaherty, Director of Digital Strategy, according to an announcement by the Biden transition team.

Raised in Louisiana, Shah previously served as digital partnerships manager in the Biden-Harris campaign. She currently serves as an advancement specialist for the Smithsonian Institution. Shah has also worked as an assistant manager on the Corporate Fund of the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

She also served as a strategic communications specialist at Buoy, an integrated marketing firm, as well as spitfire strategies, where she enabled nonprofits to use pop culture as a tool for social change.

Among other members of the White House Office of Digital Strategy are Brendan Cohen (Platform Manager) and Maha Ghandour (Digital Partnerships Manager).

"This team of diverse experts has a wide range of experience in digital strategy and will help connect the White House to the American people in new and innovative ways. I am thrilled to have them," Biden said. — PTI

**Pence sued in bid to overturn Biden win**

**Washington:** Several Republicans have sued US Vice President Mike Pence in an improbable bid to overturn President-elect Joe Biden's victory, according to media reports. The writ has been filed by Representative Louie Gohmert, along with 11 Arizona residents. PTI

**1,800 Rohingyas shifted to island**

**BHASAN CHAR, DECEMBER 29**

Bangladesh moved a second group of 1,804 Rohingya Muslim refugees in five ships to a low-lying island in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday, despite opposition from rights groups worried about the new site's vulnerability to storms.

The UN urged the government to ensure no refugee is forced to move to Bhasan Char island, which emerged from the sea 20 years ago.

The move has worried aid groups about weather disasters that the island regularly faces. — Reuters

**Tata Sons to acquire 32.67% addl stake in AirAsia India**

After the deal, Group's shareholding will rise to 83.67%

**MUMBAI, DECEMBER 29**

Tata Sons will increase its stake in budget carrier AirAsia India (AAI) to 83.67% by acquiring an additional 32.67% for \$37.66 million from AirAsia Investment Ltd (AAIL), according to a regulatory filing.

Currently, AAIL, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia-based AirAsia, holds 49% stake in the Bengaluru-based AirAsia India.

In a regulatory filing to stock exchange Bursa Malaysia, AirAsia said, "The Board of directors of AirAsia wishes to announce that its wholly-owned subsidiary AAIL and Tata Sons Pvt Ltd, India, on December 29, entered into a share-purchase agreement." It added that the pact is for disposing of AAIL's equity interest of 32.67% in AirAsia India to Tata Sons "for a total consideration sum of \$37,660,000 (or MYR 152.58 million)".

AirAsia India started operations on domestic routes in June 2014 following the then UPA government allowing foreign airlines to invest up to 49% in



**\$37.66-MILLION TRANSACTION**

- Currently, AirAsia Investment Ltd (AAIL), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia-based AirAsia, holds 49% stake in the Bengaluru-based AirAsia India
- The pact is for disposing of AAIL's equity interest of 32.67% in AirAsia India to Tata Sons for a total consideration sum of \$37.66 million

the Indian carriers. "The share of losses over the years has resulted in the carrying value of the investment at the date of transaction to be Nil," AAIL said in the filing.

It added the proposed disposal will, therefore, result in a gain on disposal of \$37,660,000 (equivalent to about 152.58 million Malaysian ringgit) in the fourth quarter of 2020 at

both AAIL and consolidated group level.

The directors of AirAsia also wishes to announce that AAIL has further agreed to waive unpaid brand licence fees payable by AAI to AirAsia Berhad, a company's wholly-owned subsidiary, under an agreement reached in December last year, due to the Covid pandemic, it said. — PTI

**Chakraborty likely to head HDFC Bank**

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29**

Former Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty is likely to be the next chairperson of the country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank, sources said. He would replace Shyamala Gopinath, who is set to complete her term in January.



**ATANU CHAKRABORTY**

According to the sources, the bank has recommended the name of Chakraborty for appointment as the part-time chairperson, subject to the RBI's approval.

Chakraborty, a 1985-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, retired as Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Prior to that, he was Secretary of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). — PTI

**Emergency vaccination drive begins in Wuhan**

In Britain, hospital admissions surpass April peak figures

**BEIJING, DECEMBER 29**

The Chinese city of Wuhan, where Covid emerged a year ago, has started the emergency vaccination on some key groups, a senior health official said on Tuesday. China is yet to officially certify its multiple vaccines. The vaccination, available in 15 districts, has started targeting certain groups of people aged between 18 and 59 years, He Zhenyu, deputy director of the centre for disease control and prevention in Wuhan, said.

In the UK, Andrew Hayward, professor of infectious disease epidemiology at University College London, warned, "The nation needs to bring in tighter curbs to avert a fresh wave of deaths from a new variant of the disease."

Britain reported 41,385 new Covid cases on Monday, the highest number since testing became widely available in the middle of 2020, and hospitals have more Covid patients



A US soldier gets Covid vax at Osan Air Base, South Korea. REUTERS

**New UK virus variant reaches Pakistan**

than during the first wave of the pandemic in April. As many as 20,426 patients were being treated in hospitals on Monday, compared to 18,974 recorded on April 12 during the first Covid peak.

Pakistan has registered its first case of the new UK Covid variant. Three passengers, who returned from UK, were found infected. — Agencies

TRACKING VIRUS	
NATIONS	DEATHS
US	3,43,628
BRAZIL	1,91,735
MEXICO	1,22,855
UK	71,567
ITALY	73,029

WORLDOMETER  
TILL DEC 29, 11 PM

**Massive stir in Nepal over Parl dissolution**

**KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 29**

Madhav Kumar Nepal, Chairman of the ruling Nepal Communist Party's rival faction, said on Tuesday that the party could still be united if PM KP Sharma Oli was willing to accept his mistakes, as thousands of protesters held a march in Kathmandu against the dissolution of Parliament.

Ex-PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda was also present. He said Oli's move was aimed at killing federalism and republicanism. Prachanda, who claims control over the ruling party, has already removed Oli from the posts of the party's parliamentary leader and chair.

Meanwhile, a Chinese delegation met Nepali Congress chief Sher Bahadur Deuba and discussed the political developments. — PTI

**'ACCEPT MISTAKES'**

“ Party can still be united if PM KP Oli is willing to accept his mistakes.

**Madhav Kumar, NCP RIVAL FACTION'S CHAIRMAN**

**Covid fails to dent sales of wellness products**

Increased awareness key factor

**VIJAY C ROY**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29**

At a time when most of the businesses are facing a downturn, wellness product segment of the direct selling industry has registered a phenomenal growth. According to direct sellers, an increased awareness about the importance of immunity, health and nutrition resulted in the segment recording the highest year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 20.45% during the first half (H1) of FY21.

Other segments such as healthcare and household goods registered a combined y-o-y growth of 15.17% during the H1 of FY21 while sales of 'cosmetics' was nearly the same at 0.19%. Wellness, cosmetics and healthcare are the biggest segments of direct selling sales in India and together constitute nearly 90% of the overall sales.

Overall, the gross direct selling sales for the H1 of FY21 (April-September) was estimated to have crossed the Rs 7,500-crore mark as compared to Rs 7,200 crore in the same period a year ago, registering 4.7% growth in the H1 of FY21, according to Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA).

The northern states, including Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, contribute over 25% to total sales of the direct selling industry and nearly 15 lakh people are engaged in the direct selling business

have joined the industry as customers and direct sellers. The northern region added around 20-25% of the total new entrants.

According to the direct sellers, they have witnessed a tremendous upsurge in people exploring business opportunities, especially from the youth below 35 years of age. "What is even more heartening is the fact that the industry has witnessed a significantly higher number of new entrants, many of whom are going to pursue direct selling as a 'full time' or 'part time' opportunity," said Rini Sanyal, chairperson, IDSA.

According to the sellers, the emergence of work-from-home concept has also helped the cause of the industry. People are becoming inclined to have an additional source of self-sustainable income while doing work from home and direct selling is emerging as a good source of an additional income. Also, adoption of virtual meeting technologies has enabled the companies and direct sellers to organise more meetings per day with prospective customers to expand their reach.

**NORTH CONTRIBUTES 25% TO TOTAL SALES**

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# Haryana Government honoured for Good Governance



Hon'ble President  
**Sh. Ram Nath Kovind**  
will honour



## Haryana State's Antyodaya Saral Project today with **Digital India Award-2020**

The award has been conferred by the Ministry of  
Electronics and Information Technology under the category  
**Excellence in Digital Governance - State / Union Territory**

Haryana was also honoured for Antyodaya Saral Project earlier with  
**National e-Governance Award, 2019-2020 (Gold)**

### Features of Antyodaya Saral Project

**Benefits of 549 schemes and services** of 40 departments,  
boards, corporations through Online Saral portal.

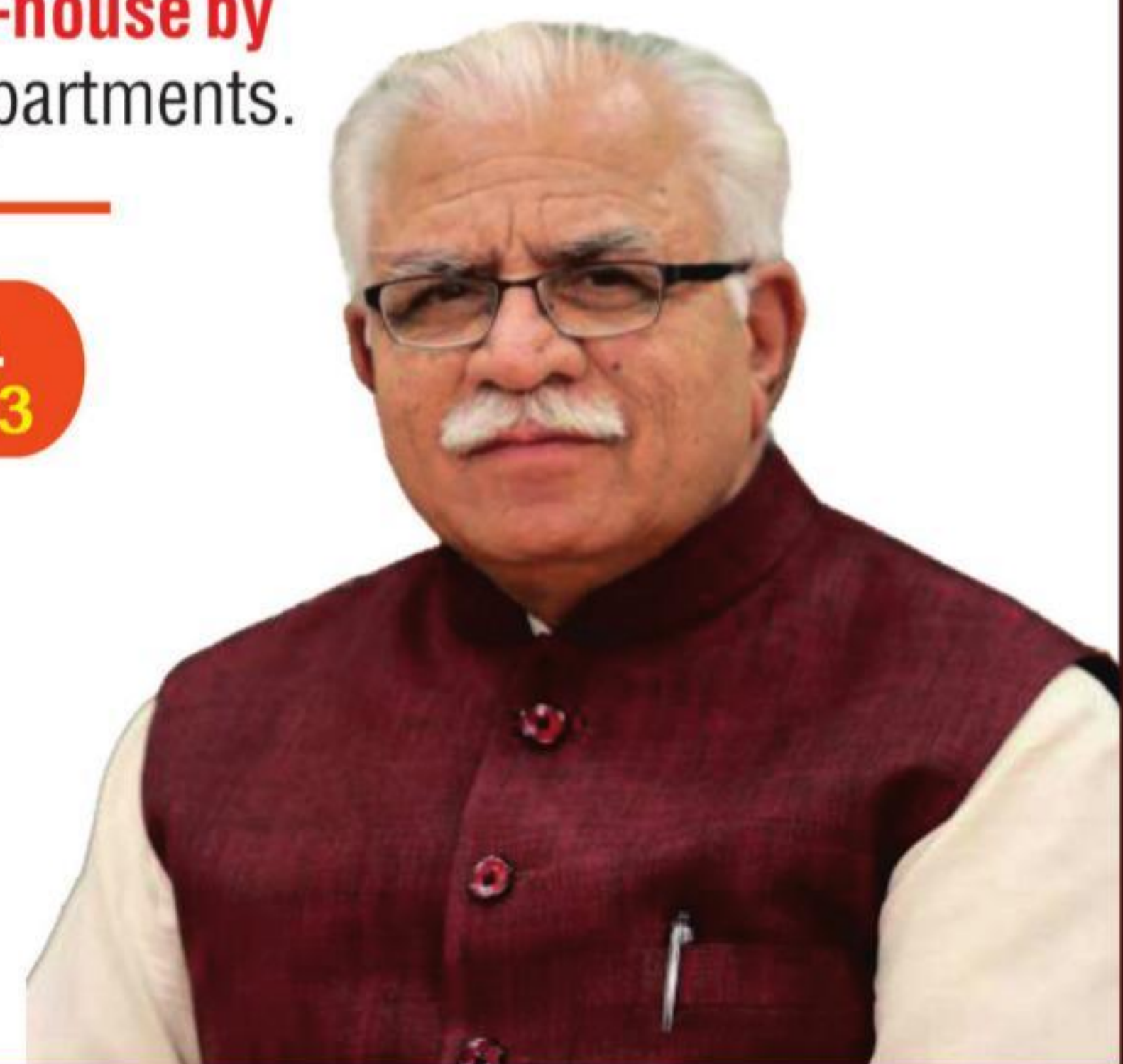
Antyodaya Saral gets an overall satisfaction rating of  
**4.3 on a scale of 5 through** automated I.V.R.S. feedback call

Antyodaya Saral Platform is completely developed **in-house by**  
**technical teams of N.I.C. Haryana** and concerned departments.

Antyodaya Saral Portal  
<https://saralharyana.gov.in>

Toll Free Helpline No.  
**1800-2000-023**

“ We express our heartfelt gratitude to  
Government of India for honouring the State  
with Digital India Award-2020.  
Such positive encouragement boosts the morale of  
the Government and accelerates the development  
work on a faster pace. Our Government's aim is to  
bring transparency with Good Governance so that public  
welfare schemes can reach the grass root level.  
- **Manohar Lal**, Chief Minister, Haryana ”



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**Wear Mask and Maintain Social Distance**

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana  
[www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in)



# Sitharaman holds pre-Budget consultation with BJP leaders

MUKESH RANJAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE


**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held pre-budget deliberations with BJP leaders and sought their views as they are learnt to have asked for administrative reforms, incentives to middle income groups, support to teachers of unaided schools and financial support to farmer producer organisations (FPOs).

During the three-hour talks, 17 groups made presentations before Nirmala Sitharaman at the BJP headquarters on Monday evening as part of the government-party coordination exercise, sources said.

17 GROUPS MAKE PRESENTATIONS

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■ During the three-hour talks, 17 groups made presentations before Nirmala Sitharaman at the BJP headquarters



BJP's organisational secretary BL Santosh and national general secretary Arun Singh were also present.

A senior leader of the BJP's economic affairs group said the thrust in the presentations was on the implementation of the administrative reforms, particularly in the GST, taxation and trade.

The Finance Ministry has been holding pre-Budget consultations with different groups in the run-up to the presentation of the Union Budget in the last week of the next month.

"In the agriculture sector, the FPOs need to be financially supported in the form of seed capital, which can be

arranged from NABARD for the farmers to engage in value addition and food processing for better income. Also, a few sections in the unorganised sector need the support of the government, including the teachers of the unaided schools," the leader said.

With the Covid-19 pandemic setting up the backdrop for the Union Budget presentation next month, the focus in the BJP's deliberations appears to be on farmers, unorganised sector and the middle income groups. Also, the BJP leaders are learnt to have gathered inputs from state-level consultations favouring incentives from the Centre to boost consumption in the economy.

# PM attacks previous govts for delay in freight corridor project

LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday accused previous governments of delaying the dedicated freight corridor project and ignoring modernisation of the Railways, saying politics should be kept away from infrastructure development.

Inaugurating the New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) via video-conferencing, he said the "roar" of Bharat and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) were clearly heard as the first freight train operated on the Khurja-Bhaupur section, and asserted that the corridor would also help farmers transport their harvest on time.

MODI TO LAY STONE OF AIIMS-RAJKOT TOMORROW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in Rajkot, Gujarat, on December 31 via video-conference, the PMO said on Tuesday. To be built over 201 acres, the ₹1,195-crore project is expected to be completed by mid-2022, the PMO said. PTI



was that of the country and its citizens. Stressing that this project was the living example of the work culture of the government at the helm before 2014, Modi said the freight project was given permission in 2006, but it was only on paper as the then government lacked the "seriousness and urgency" with which it had to take it up with the states.

After 2014, the project was restarted and officials asked to take it forward and by then the budget had gone up by 11 times, he noted.

technology as a result of which about 1,100-km work would be completed in the next few months.

"Imagine not a single km in eight years and 1,100 km in six to seven years," he said. The 351-km section has been built at a cost of Rs 5,750 crore. The EDFC is 1,840-km and extends from Ludhiana in Punjab to Kolkata in West Bengal. Modi also inaugurated the EDFC's operation centre at Allahabad and flagged off the first 1.5-km goods trains. The Prime Minister said political apathy not just hampered the freight corridor project, but also had a bearing on the entire Railways. — PTI

The Prime Minister also deprecated the tendency of people to target infrastructure during protests and demonstrations, saying infrastructure did not belong to any leader, political party or government but

# Father of fashion branding no more

PARIS, DECEMBER 29

French couturier Pierre Cardin, who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, and his fortune by being the first to exploit that name as a brand for selling everything from cars to perfume, died on Tuesday aged 98.

In a career spanning more than 60 years, Cardin drew scorn and admiration from fellow fashion designers for his brash business sense, and influenced catwalks with his space-age, futuristic bubble dresses and geometrical cuts and patterns.

Cardin, who was a mentor to designers such as Jean Paul Gaultier, was active in fashion circles until the last, still taking young designers under his wing and regularly visiting his Paris office.

Cardin was the first designer to sell clothes collections in departmental stores in the late 1950s and the first to enter the licensing business for perfumes, accessories and even food. "It's all the same to me whether I am doing sleeves for dresses or table legs," a telling quote on his website once read.

Hard as it may be to imagine decades later, Armani chocolates, Bulgari hotels and Gucci sunglasses are all based on Cardin's realisation that a fashion brand's glamour had endless merchandising potential. He once said it would not bother him to have his initials, PC, etched into rolls of toilet paper. His detractors accused him of destroying the value of his brand and the notion of luxury in general. But he seemed largely unaffected by criticism. "I had a sense for marketing my name," Cardin said in 2007. — Reuters

FIRST DESIGNER TO HIT STORES IN 1950s

■ He was the first designer to sell clothes collections in departmental stores in 1950s and the first to enter the licensing business for perfumes, accessories and even food

■ In a career spanning more than 60 years, his name has been stamped on razor blades, household goods and tacky accessories — even cheap boxer shorts



PIERRE CARDIN 1922 - 2020

detractors accused him of destroying the value of his brand and the notion of luxury in general. But he seemed largely unaffected by criticism. "I had a sense for marketing my name," Cardin said in 2007. — Reuters

# K'taka House Dy Chairman dies by suicide

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 29

Karnataka Legislative Council Deputy Chairman SL Dharme Gowda was found dead on a rail track in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka in the early hours of Tuesday, with police sources claiming he died by suicide.

Dharme Gowda (64), who was an MLC from the JD(S), is survived by his wife, son and a daughter. His brother, SL Bhoje Gowda, is also an MLC.

## On Dec 15, Gowda was 'manhandled' by Congress members

According to sources, Gowda had left his farmhouse at Sakharayapattana in a private car on Tuesday, but did not return home.

He had reportedly asked his driver to stay at a distance and went alone on the pretext of talking to someone, the sources said, adding that a suicide note has been recovered.

Dharme Gowda was at the centre of the high drama in the legislative council on December 15, which saw BJP-JD(S) and Congress members hurling abuses over a row pertaining to a no-confidence motion against Chairman K Pratachandra Shetty. Gowda, who was on the Chairman's seat, was pulled down by some Congress legislators who accused him of occupying the chair against the rules. — PTI

# Pak has become pawn in Chinese policy: Air Chief

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

Pakistan has increasingly become a pawn of China and the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan has opened options for Beijing to expand its influence in the region through Islamabad, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said on Tuesday.



“Any serious conflict with India doesn't suit China's global aspirations and grand plans, and the trigger for the Ladakh face-off could be the result of a variety of reasons.”

RKS Bhadauria, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL

In an address at a seminar organised by think-tank Vivekananda International Foundation, he said, "Pakistan's dependence on China is going to increase as the country is set to reel under a Chinese debt-trap."

Bhadauria said any serious conflict with India did not suit China's global aspirations and "grand plans", and the trigger for the Ladakh face-off could be the result of a variety of reasons, including a "military dominated misadventure", that escalated following the rapid trust deficit faced by the neighbouring country due to the pandemic.

The IAF Chief said China resorted to heavy deployment of radars, surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles as well as other air assets

to support its army in view of the border standoff in Eastern Ladakh, but at the same time asserted that India took every action required to deal with the situation.

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been focusing on developing capabilities to counter the global dominance of the US and it could lead to security implications for India. The online seminar was organised by leading think-tank Vivekananda International Foundation. — PTI

# New phase of electoral bonds in Jan

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

With Assam and West Bengal Assembly elections coming up, the government announced a 10-day window from January 1 for the 15th phase of sale and encashment of electoral bonds.

The bonds will be valid for 15 days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made if political parties deposit them after the validity period. Only the State Bank of India is authorised to issue and redeem the electoral bonds through 29 branches. The previous window was opened for 10 days from October 19 during which electoral bonds worth Rs 282.29 crore were sold, half of them in Mumbai though the polls were held in Bihar and Hyderabad municipal corporation. — TNS

## BRIEFLY

**Nirav Modi's remand in UK extended till Jan 7**  
**London:** Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi appeared via videolink for a routine 28-day remand hearing on Tuesday before Westminster Magistrates' Court in London, where he was further remanded in custody until January 7 to conclude hearings in his extradition case. PTI

**Sena leader Raut's wife skips ED questioning again**  
**Mumbai:** Varsha Raut, the wife of Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, again skipped questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday in the over Rs 4,300-crore PMC Bank money-laundering case, official sources said. They said she had asked for an adjournment of the latest summons and sought a fresh date of January 5 for depositing before the Central agency in Mumbai. PTI



**Car designer Chhabria arrested for fraud**  
**Mumbai:** Car designer Dilip Chhabria's firm is suspected to have cheated several finance companies by obtaining loans fraudulently, the city police said on Tuesday. The Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Mumbai crime branch arrested Chhabria on Monday evening. The alleged scam came to light when the police seized a DC Avanti, a sports-car manufactured by Chhabria Design Pvt Ltd, in south Mumbai on a tip-off that its registration number was bogus. PTI

**Gujarat MP Vasava resigns from BJP, to quit LS too**  
**Bharuch:** Gujarat BJP MP and former Union minister Mansukh Vasava on Tuesday quit the party and said he would also resign from Lok Sabha in the Budget session of Parliament. In his resignation letter, Vasava (63) did not specify any reason for quitting the party, but sources said the six-time MP, who is vocal on tribal issues, had been critical of BJP's policies after he was dropped as Union minister in 2016. PTI

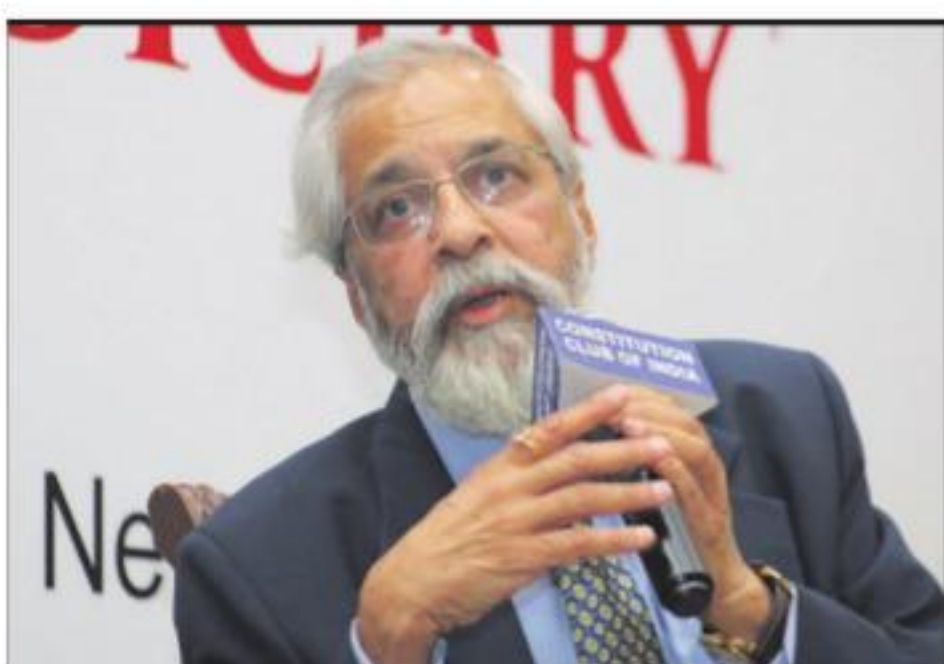
Printed and published by Rajesh Ramchandran for The Tribune Trust  
Published at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.  
Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.  
RNI No. 15/57.  
Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.  
Telephones: 0172-2655066-72  
Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257  
Editor: Rajesh Ramchandran\*  
\*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

## The Tribune INTERVIEW: JUSTICE (RETD) MADAN B LOKUR

# ‘Judiciary is getting executivised’

JUSTICE (ret'd) Madan B Lokur has been one of the most vocal judges in India. Currently, a judge of the Supreme Court of Fiji, Justice Lokur spoke to Legal Editor Satya Prakash on issues confronting the Indian judiciary. He said, "By and large, the judges have performed their role as expected, but I think some of them have been a bit tentative over the last few years." Excerpts:

■ You have been critical of the judiciary in general and the SC in particular. Why? Certain events have transpired over the last few years that have dismayed me. Some of us felt that the then CJI was misusing his authority as Master of the Roster despite being cautioned. Four senior judges (including myself) spoke out against it. Matters did improve, but only temporarily. The next CJI went a few steps further down the slope when he dealt with allegations of sexual harassment against himself. The SC then declined to give appropriate importance to cases concerning electoral bonds, CAA, habeas corpus petitions, freedom of the Press and the hardships by migrants during the lockdown. About 20 senior lawyers wrote to the CJI and all other judges about the SC's "failure to protect the rights of migrant work-



“I think the Supreme Court is being unnecessarily defensive. It has been criticised by senior politicians who have used expressions like judicial activism. It has not reacted to that. Why take action against non-political individuals?”

ers...and its failure to scrutinise the executive actions..."

The problem is that the High Courts and District Courts then begin to think that if the SC takes a particular stance, why should we take a different line. The judicial process down the line gets vitiated. That is troubling and in the overall context, it engenders the feeling that the Supreme Court and the judiciary is getting executivised.

■ Courts are accused of judicial overreach while activists feel the judiciary is not active enough? It's a mixture of both. If the court keeps a hands-off attitude, it is accused of not being active enough. If the court intervenes, it is accused of judicial overreach. This is an unfortunate dilemma. Why is

it that no law was provided to protect women from sexual harassment at the workplace? Due to the silence of the Legislature, the SC was compelled to issue the Vishaka guidelines in 1998.

■ The collegium system is under attack for being opaque. What changes would you suggest? There are many ways in which judges can be selected. No system is perfect, including our collegium system. At one time, I suggested five different changes in the functioning of the collegium to reduce opacity. These were immediately accepted by the CJI and other judges in the collegium. Later, I gave another set of suggested changes to the Registrar concerned in the Supreme Court.

certain that without the use of technology our justice delivery system will collapse. But there is a need to brainstorm so that communication is secure, robust and effective and lawyers don't attend court in a vest. Under no circumstances should the use of technology leave out the poor and indigent litigant or those having little or no access to ICT. As yet, there is no study or evidence to suggest that online justice delivery has affected the "quality of justice".

■ Do you think the roster system needs to be streamlined? The Chief Justice of a High Court is also Master of the Roster, but I have seldom heard of any misuse of power by any of them. Recently, Justice Rajinder Sachar of the Delhi High Court did mention, in his worth reading autobiography, of one case of such misuse by the Chief Justice in a case pertaining to the 1984 riots in Delhi. He protested against it by going on leave. However, if the Chief Justice misuses the system and is adamant, unyielding and not willing to listen to reason, despite being advised by four senior judges, he or she is inviting a protest in some form or the other.

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**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
**e-Auction notice for the Old Spinning Mill at Umra Road, Hansi.**

Sr. No.	Auction Item Name	Reserve Price	Registration Fee (including GST)	e-Processing Fee (including GST)	EMD Fee
1	Sale of scraps and debris at Spinning Mill at Umra Road, Hansi inclusive of demolition of buildings	1.85 Crores	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 1770/-	Rs. 2 Lac


Interested bidders are required to create the login ID through e-Auction portal <https://hswc.sets.co.in>. the bidder registration will start from 28.12.2020 at 10:00 A.M., last date for submit the processing and EMD fee is 07.01.2021 up to 04:00 P.M.

Online bidding will be start from 09.01.2021 at 09:00 A.M. to 09.01.2021 02:00 P.M. The norm and approved procedure of the State Government regarding the e-Auction shall be followed strictly. The other terms and conditions of auction are available on e-Auction portal <https://hswc.sets.co.in> Technical support assistance during e-Auction will be available on telephone number 0172-5210289 and Mobile No. 87250-88580.

Haryana State Warehousing Corporation reserves the right to cancel or accept any or all the bids without assigning any reason.

PRDH/1124/11/1/2021/1132/31/4

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**



**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
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(INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS)  
**Corrigendum-1**

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) In order to develop Technical specifications for development of fuel cell/battery based hybrid power train along with associated control and suitably designed Energy Management Strategy (EMS) and storage module for retrofitment on 700 HP Narrow Gauge ZDM3 Diesel- Hydraulic Locomotives running on Kalka- Shimla section, EOI (IROAF/CME/BD/FUEL CELL POWERED LOCO) is invited on 29.10.2020.

The date of submission of EOI in the prescribed Format is extended from 31.12.2020 to 21.01.2021

Please visit website IROAF <https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/> → IROAF Tenders → Expression of Interest.

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