

SOUTH AFRICA'S DU PLESSIS RETIRES FROM TESTS SPORT

GOVT APPROVES ₹12,000-CR MFG PUSH FOR TELECOM GEAR BUSINESS

RAHUL TAKES AIM AT PM IN PUDUCHERRY BACK PAGE

Cong sweeps civic poll, Capt taller

Wins six of 7 corps | Mohali result today | Akalis lose Bathinda | BJP routed amid farm stir

JUPINDERJIT SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 17
The Congress today registered an overwhelming victory in the Punjab municipal elections by pocketing around 67 per cent seats of seven municipal corporations and 109 municipal councils and nagar panchayats.

The BJP, which went alone in any election for the first time in the state, stood last, losing badly even in its strongholds. The party had fielded 1,000 candidates.

Though the party ruling the state usually posts better results in civic elections, the ongoing farmers' stir created extra interest in the people's verdict this time.

The counting of votes for the Mohali Municipal Corpora-



Congress workers celebrate poll victory at Phialaur, Jalandhar. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

ration would be held tomorrow as re-polling was held in two wards today.

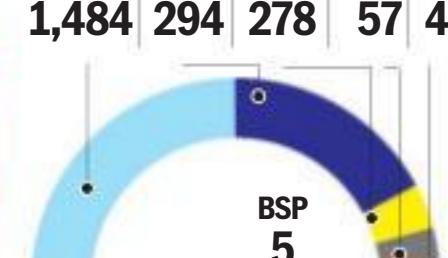
The election results declared

today put the Congress way ahead of other parties. With victory in 1,484 of the 2,165 wards of various municipal

bodies, the Congress got clear majority in six of the seven corporations, including Bathinda (Akali bastion) and

TOTAL SEATS 2,165

CONG 1,484 SAD 294 IND 278 AAP 57 BJP 47



CONG SINGLE LARGEST PARTY IN MOGA

- In its first outing alone in Punjab politics, the BJP, which fielded 1,000 candidates, ends up at the bottom in the result tally
- Congress emerges single largest party bagging 20 of 50 seats in the Moga corp

Gurdaspur/Pathankot area (BJP stronghold). It emerged

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

EDIT: CONG MAKES CLEAN SWEEP

The Tribune INTERVIEW: CAPT AMARINDER SINGH, PUNJAB CM 'Mandate for liberal policies'

LAUDING the voters, CM Capt Amarinder Singh, in an interview with Rajmeet Singh, said the people had voted for development, peace and stability and against regressive and divisive policies. Excerpts:

■ How do you view the results?

A clear endorsement of our policies and a validation of our stand on key issues, including farm laws. The Congress has delivered on its promises over the past four years.

■ Do you think farmers' stir had bearing on the outcome?

The issue has touched the entire nation. With its largely agrarian society, Punjab is affected more than many



other states by the Centre's anti-farmer stance. The issue has exposed the apathy of the BJP and its former ally SAD and even AAP. People have realised that a vote for any of these parties would be a vote against Punjab.

■ How do you rate SAD, AAP performance?

Pathetic. Neither of these parties is even a close second to the Congress. Their fluctuating stand on the farm laws and farmers' stir has made matters worse for them.

■ What's message for BJP?

The clear message is mend your ways or be ready to be wiped out of the Indian polity.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

**BADAL BASTION BATHINDA FALLS TO CONGRESS
BJP LOSES STRONGHOLDS GURDASPUR, BATALA**

**ON CAPT'S HOME TURF,
CONG WINS 66 OF 92 WARDS**

TIKSHAN SUD'S WIFE LOSES IN HOSHIARPUR

CONGRESS WINS ALL SEATS IN FEROZEPUR MC

**17 CANDIDATES DRAW A BLANK IN KOTKAPURA
INSIDE**

'Rail roko' today, security up

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

20 addl RPSF companies deployed nationwide

TRANSIT BAIL FOR NIKITA

New Delhi: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted three-week transit bail to alleged "toolkit" case conspirator Nikita Jacob. Jacob now has time to move the appropriate court in Delhi for anticipatory bail. TNS

SWORD-WIELDER HELD

Ghazipur: Maninder Singh, who was allegedly seen swinging swords at the Red Fort during the violence on Republic Day, has been arrested. TNS



Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), Ambala division, Pankaj Gupta said: "We have been apprised of the locations where the farmers will block the tracks. We have made arrangements accordingly."

The Northern Railway has stressed that no train has been cancelled or diverted in the region. The Railways has deployed 20 additional companies of the Railway Protection Special Force across the country.

Foreign Secy holds 'fruitful' talks with Russian diplomats

MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 17

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Wednesday had "fruitful and productive" meetings with top Russian diplomats on bilateral issues as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest and the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral special and privileged strategic partnership.

Shringla, who arrived in Moscow on his first foreign visit this year, called on Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and conveyed greetings of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

"They discussed the wide-ranging special & privileged strategic partnership between #India and #Russia and ways to further strengthen it," the Indian Embassy tweeted. BACK PAGE

Ramani let off, court junks MJ Akbar's suit

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

TOUGH, CHALLENGING TRIAL
The case was very difficult and challenging in respect of the defences taken. Probably the most important case of my life. Rebecca John, PRIYA RAMANI'S LAWYER

Delivering the judgment being hailed as a watershed moment for the #MeToo movement, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Pandey said: "A woman cannot be punished for raising voice against sexual abuse on the pretext of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

GOVT: FLOODS NOT DUE TO CHAR DHAM PROJECT

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday denied before the Supreme Court that the Char Dham road widening project had anything to do with the recent Rishiganga valley disaster in Uttarakhand. BACK PAGE

SC IMPLEADS JAMIAT IN 'LOVE JIHAD' PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Jamiat Ulama-Hind to become a party to petitions challenging laws passed by some BJP-ruled states to check unlawful conversion for inter-faith marriages. BACK PAGE

**Jab baat ho Construction ki,
Pipe ho toh FinOlex**



**RANGE OF PLUMBING AND SANITATION
PIPES AND FITTINGS**



CPVC | ASTM | HEAVY PLUMBING | SWR | SEWERAGE

MADE OF EXPERTISE
India's only backward integrated pipe manufacturer ensuring total quality control from raw materials to finished products.

MADE OF EXCELLENCE
Globally certified processes for safe and sustainable operations.

MADE TO LAST
Cultivating enduring and lasting relationships with all our consumers and partners.

MADE OF GOODNESS
Building a sustainable future with award-winning CSR initiatives.

For further enquiries call our Toll Free Number:

1800 200 3466

www.finolexpipes.com

DEALERS : CHANDIGARH : LUXMI SANITARY & H/W STORE - +91 9779163226, OM PLAST - +91 9988270000, DELHI/NCR : CHANDER MOHAN & CO - +91 981036913, GOVAL BATH PALACE PVT. LTD. - +91 7011737072, PLAST INDIA CORPORATION - +91 9810447563, RADHIKA SANITATIONS - +91 9810849175, VIRMANI SANITARY STORE - +91 9873929529, HARYANA : AGGARWAL HARDWARE & MACHINERY STORE - +91 9966118668, ANANT RAM & SONS - +91 9896227327, BALAJI ENTERPRISES - +91 9896534600, BHAGWAN DASS JAGAN NATH - +91 9416024399, CHAWLA AGENCIES - +91 9896577570, GARG & GARG SANITARY - +91 9050521239, GIRIJAJI MACHINERY STORE - +91 9466014025, HARYANA IRON & MILL STORES - +91 9416156086, HARYANA TUBE AGENCY - +91 8398800022, KUMAR TRADERS - +91 9215092460, NAIVEEN SALES AGENCY - +91 9416726222, RAJU PLASTIC INDUSTRIES - +91 9729100970, SHRIRE KRISHNA ENTERPRISES - +91 9415028217, SHIRE RAM UDYOG - +91 7027527000, SINGLA PIPE COMPANY - +91 9354809054, YAMUNA PUMPS - +91 9415025104, PUNJAB : AGGARWAL PAINTS & HARDWARE STORE - +91 9888207766, ALFA TUBES - +91 9814372298, ASIAN STEEL TUBES - +91 9417027652, BANT RAM AMRIT LAL - +91 9814300947, CHERRY ENTERPRISES - +91 9814329762, GANESH TRADING CO - +91 9417266806, GOYAL PIPE & HARDWARE STORE - +91 9855080029, HARICHAND KRISHAN KUMAR - +91 9814361438, INDIA STEEL TRADERS - +91 9814305350, J. K. ENTERPRISES - +91 988620786, KALI RAM AGGARWAL & SONS - +91 9915107000, KARAN TRADERS - +91 9815107922, KASTURI LAL RAJINDER KUMAR - +91 7696077000, KHALSA PIPE & AGRICULTURE STORES - +91 9217766944, NASIB CHAND & SONS - +91 9814902987, OM PLAST - +91 9417266806, PATAIAL MILL STORE - +91 9417266806, RAM PRAKASH CHOPRA & SONS - +91 981512600, S. C. TRADING COMPANY - +91 9875627265, SHRI RAM GANESH PVC PIPES - +91 9417742467, SURNDRA INDUSTRIES - +91 7798900001, TUBES AND PIPES - +91 9464217047, JAMMU : AGGARWAL TRADERS - +91 9419419140, HIMACHAL PRADESH : AJAY TRADING CO - +91 9459494294, BANSAL TRADERS - +91 9416026027, BAWA DITTA MAL SANITARY STORE - +91 9814372298, BHAGWAT TRADING CO - +91 9816051079, GUPTA HARDWARE STORE PVT LTD - +91 9816678311, HIMACHAL TRADERS - +91 9816009166, JAGAT RAM SHAKTI PRASHAD - +91 9418914256, R.C. HARDWARE STORE - +91 9817172651, RSM TRADING CO - +91 91929290000, UTTARAKHAND : AGGARWAL SALES CORPORATION RISHIKESH - +91 9917999000, ATUL IRON STORE HARIDWAR - +91 9368566450, B. SARAN & COMPANY, PITHORAGARH - +91 7500250405, BHARAT TRADING CORPORATION RUDRAPUR - +91 9412323625, DEHRADUN SANITARY STORE, DEHRADUN - +91 9897636327, HANUMANT HOMESPV LTD, DEHRADUN - +91 9997272999, J.K. SALES CORPORATION, DEHRADUN - +9358401385, JAINCO SANITARY STORE KOTDWARA - +91 7017848376, K. V. TRADERS, HALDWANI - +91 9712977143

IN BRIEF

Bengal minister hurt in bomb attack

BAHARAMPUR: West Bengal Minister Jakir Hossain was seriously injured after unidentified attackers hurled bombs at him in Murshidabad. TNS

Covid test for flyers from UK, SA, Brazil

NEW DELHI: From February 22, all passengers coming from or transiting through the UK, South Africa and Brazil will be tested for Covid-19. TNS

Jatha to Pakistan refused permission

AMRITSAR: The MEA has denied permission to a Sikh jatha that was to leave for Pakistan on Thursday for the centennial of the Nankana Sahib massacre. INSIDE

On foreign envoys' table: Some politics, art & pottery

Ambassadors meet newly elected DDC chiefs, artisans

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



A delegation of 24 foreign ambassadors on Srinagar visit. PTI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17
Twentyfour foreign envoys who arrived in Jammu and Kashmir on a two-day visit got a flavour of the Valley today as they engaged with district development council (DDC) representatives, writers, potters and calligraphers among others.

The envoys from Asia, South America, Europe, Africa and some OIC member states, who will be leaving

for Jammu tomorrow, wound up their day in Srinagar after an interaction with Kashmiri artisans and influencers.

Writer-poets were also present at the Dal Lake conven-

tion hall, where the engagement was arranged. The visiting ambassadors were seen taking interest in local arts and crafts with some even wondering why women in the Valley had not taken to pottery in a big way as in Europe. Earlier today, the envoys visited Magam in Budgam district to speak to the winners of the recent DDC elections. Foreign envoys have visited J&K twice in the past since the abrogation of the recent DDC elections.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Badal bastion Bathinda falls to Cong

Ruling party sweeps 43 of 50 wards | SAD wins seven | BJP & AAP fail to open account



TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 17

The Congress has won the Bathinda MC poll by winning 43 of the 50 wards and is all set to have its Mayor for the first time. SAD secured its win in seven wards, while the BJP and AAP failed to open its account.

In a major turnaround, PPCC secretary Tehal Singh Sandhu's wife Manjot Kaur lost from ward No 1 with just 25 votes and even ex-deputy mayor and BJP candidate Gurinderpal Kaur Mangat lost badly with only 86 votes and remained on the fourth position.

Two candidates got the same number of 334 votes and it was a tie between AAP's Ranbir Singh and Independent Surjit



Finance Minister Manpreet Badal celebrates the victory of a Congress candidate in Bathinda. PAWAN SHARMA

Singh. Later, the Independent was declared winner by a toss in ward No 2 of Goniyan MC.

Crossed over the farm laws, the BJP performed poorly in most wards it contested in Bathinda. In ward No 24, the BJP candidate got only 22 votes out of around 3,000 polled, 61 in ward No 18 and 55 votes in ward

No 21. However, BJP Bathinda urban president Vinod Kumar Binta, who contested as an Independent on tractor symbol, won by 229 votes from ward No 2 in the Bhuchro MC.

In CM Capt Amarinder Singh's native Mehraj village, of the 13 seats, Congress won 10, SAD one and Independents two. In the Sangat MC poll, SAD won 7 wards out of the 9, while the Congress won in only two. The Congress also won comfortably in Kotha Guru, Bhagta, Maluka, Bhai Rupa, Mau, Raman, Bucho Mandi, Nathana, Goniyan, Kotshamir and Kotfatta municipal councils and nagar

BJP LOSES TO NOTA

- In two wards of Bathinda, NOTA got more votes than BJP candidates. In ward No 10, Raj Kumar polled only 12 votes, while NOTA got 21
- Manju Kaur polled 18 votes and NOTA got 39 in ward No 20. In many other wards, BJP candidates gave a tough fight to NOTA
- The saffron party got less than 100 votes in 20 wards. Experts say wrong selection of candidates led to the party's debacle as where the party fielded good candidates, it got more than 600 votes in only two wards

panchayat polls. While AAP was able to win three seats in Nathana, BSP won Bhai Rupa.

Finance Minister Manpreet Badal said, "This is a vote for the Congress. This is a vote for the people who stood up to the might of those vested interests who wish to destroy India's agriculture and rural economy."



A Congress candidate celebrates victory in Samana. RAJESH SACHAR

In Patiala, Congress wins 66 of 92 seats

RAVNEET SINGH

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, FEBRUARY 17

The Congress grabbed most seats in the Rajpura and Samana council poll and registered considerable win in Patran and Nabha, while Jarnail went to Samana and Patran and managed just one seat each in Rajpura and Patran.

Meanwhile, the AAP due to the government's development works."

The AAP's campaign, led by Bhagwant Mann and Jarnail Singh, failed to make a difference. Mann held roadshows in Rajpura and Nabha, while Jarnail went to Samana and Patran and managed just one seat each in Rajpura and Patran.

Meanwhile, the BJP suffered losses due to farmers' stir. The party managed only two seats in Rajpura MC and failed to open account in the other three councils. Campaigns led by senior SAD leaders Surjeet Rakha and MP Prem Singh Chandumajra also failed to turn tables for the party candidates.

"This is a vote for the Congress and the people of India who have stood up to the might of those vested interests who wish to destroy India's agriculture, rural economy and ride roughshod over people's will and aspirations.

Manpreet Singh Badal, FINANCE MINISTER

In Rajpura, we won two seats and lost four with a very less margin. We will win the upcoming legislative election as no booth capturing will affect the process then.

Harjeet Grewal, BJP

This is not the Congress' win. There was misuse of power in delimitation of wards and issuing of voter cards. Booth capturing and fear mechanism were high.

Prem Singh Chandumajra, SAD

Voters have reposed faith in the development-oriented policies of the government. With this massive victory, our responsibilities have increased. The party will repeat the performance in 2022 as well.

Brahm Mohindra, LOCAL BODIES MINISTER

Amritsar rejects BJP, AAP stays with Cong

GS PAUL

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 17

The Congress has reaffirmed its dominance in the high-octane civic body poll amid farmers' agitation against the farm laws in the Majha region.

The emerging scenario on the ground level electoral battle could be perceived as a setback for the BJP and AAP, which had failed to make its presence felt. Both parties were wiped out in Amritsar's three nagar panchayats Rayya, Ramdas and Ajnala; two municipal councils Majitha and Jandiala and in ward No 37 bypoll.

A similar scene was witnessed at the Patti Municipal Council and the Bhikhwind Nagar Panchayat where the BJP could not open its account. In Amritsar, of the 68 seats, Congress won 40, followed by SAD with 25 and three Independents. The bypoll of the Amritsar MC ward



No 37 was won by Congress' Gagandeep Singh Sehjra with 130 votes.

The SAD has re-established its grip in Ajnala that was being loosened after former MP Rattan Singh Ajnala camp joined the SAD (Taksali) group. Apparently, with the U-turn taken by his son Boney Ajnala and his supporters, SAD bounced back.

In Muktsar, out of 31 wards, the Congress won in 17, SAD 10, AAP two, BJP one and Independent one. In Malout, the Congress won in 14, SAD nine and Independents four. The Congress also did well in Sangrur dis-

Akalis deserted in stronghold

SUKHEET BHASIN

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 17

In the backdrop of agitation against the three farm laws, the ruling Congress swept the local body elections in Malwa, considered as the stronghold of the SAD. Post the alliance break-up, the BJP also performed poorly in the region.

The Congress won in Bathinda, Mansa, Muktsar and Ferozepur in the Malwa region. It also did well in Faridkot and other districts.

In Bathinda, the home constituency of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, the Congress won 43 seats while the SAD won seven out of the total 50 wards. This is the first time the Congress won a majority in the Bathinda MC. Hence, it will have its first mayor from here. The SAD managed to make a comeback only in some pockets.

In Moga, the Congress failed to win a majority on its own and was able to win 20 seats while the SAD won 15, Independents 10, AAP four and BJP one.



Supporters of a Congress candidate celebrate outside a counting centre in Bathinda on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

In Ferozepur, the home constituency of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, the Congress made a clean sweep and grabbed the control of the MC for the first time. It also won in all wards in Zira and Guruhsarai, while the SAD was able to retain wards in Mudki.

In Muktsar, out of 31 wards, the Congress won in 17, SAD 10, AAP two, BJP one and Independent one. In Malout, the Congress won in 14, SAD nine and Independents four. The Congress also did well in Sangrur dis-

trict. In Longowal, out of total 15 seats, it won nine while the Independent won six seats. In Sunam, the Congress won 19 while the Independents won four seats.

In Mansa, the Congress was able to win 14 seats out of the total 27, but surprisingly, many of its senior leaders lost the polls. Mansa MC former president Mandeep Singh Gora lost in ward No. 22 while senior Congress leader Manjot Singh Rama lost from ward No. 6. Similarly, the Congress was able to grab control of MCs in Faridkot district as well.

Tikshan Sud's wife loses in Hoshiarpur

DEEPMAL KAUR

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 17

In the results declared today, the Congress got a clear majority in two Municipal Corporations of Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur with 45 and 41 seats, respectively, out of a total of 50 wards. The farmers' agitation and the split between the SAD and the BJP cost the two parties dearly.

In Hoshiarpur, while the Akalis were completely wiped out, the BJP, which ruled the last MC House and has had bigwigs to represent the area (Union MoS Som Parkash and ex-Union MoS Vijay Sampla), managed to win four seats. The biggest shocker for the saffron party from this traditional bastion was the defeat of wife of former BJP minister Tikshan Sud, Rakesh Kumar, from ward No 6. AAP won two wards and Independents three.

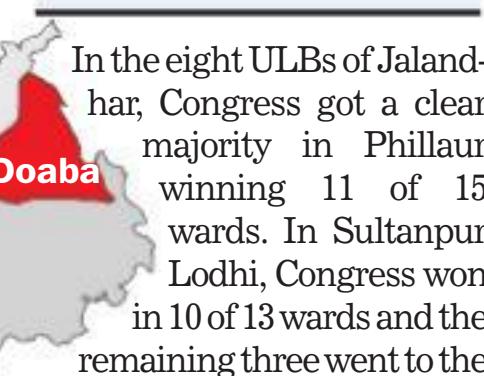
The BJP and AAP suffered even a bigger jolt in Kapurthala where they scored a duck. In the eight ULBs of Jalandhar, Congress got a clear majority in Phialla winning 11 of 15 wards. In Sultanpur Lodhi, Congress won in 10 of 13 wards and the remaining three went to the Akali Dal. In Nawanshahr MC too, Congress got an edge clinching 11 of 19 wards.



Supporters of winning candidates celebrate in Jalandhar.

AKALIS WIPE OUT

In Hoshiarpur, while the Akalis were completely wiped out, BJP, which ruled the last MC House and has had bigwigs to represent the area, managed to win four seats



In the eight ULBs of Jalandhar, Congress got a clear majority in Phialla winning 11 of 15 wards. In Sultanpur Lodhi, Congress won in 10 of 13 wards and the remaining three went to the Akali Dal. In Nawanshahr MC too, Congress got an edge clinching 11 of 19 wards.

Brahm Mohindra, LOCAL BODIES MINISTER

Farm laws backfire on BJP Tide turns in Gurdaspur

VISHAV BHARTI

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 17

In what is seen as the reflection of the public sentiment against the three farm laws, the BJP could win just 2 per cent of the total wards in the local bodies elections. In seven districts, it even failed open the account.

The saffron party, which was contesting on its own for the first time, suffered its worst-ever electoral defeat in the last 25 years. The party has always contested in alliance with the SAD since 1997.

The BJP managed to win only 49 of the total 2,302 wards. After the Congress, SAD, AAP and Independents, the party finished at the fifth position.

In Amritsar, Bathinda, Barnala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ferozepur, Mansa and Kapurthala, the party could not win even a single ward. In alliance with the SAD, the party used to contest 23 Assembly seats and three Lok Sabha seats in the state. The astonishing result is of Amritsar where the party had a strong presence. It had won the Lok Sabha election thrice as well as several Assembly constituencies in 2012. "With Punjab leading a strong movement against the farm laws and contesting alone, it became a challenging election for the BJP," said Dr Parmod Kumar, Director, Institute for Development and Communication.

The saffron party could field just 1,003 candidates as a total of 2,302 wards.

BJP drubbed in state chief Ashwani's hometown P'kot

Bajwa's candidates won 12 of the 13 seats in the Fatehgarh Churian MC polls.

In Pathankot, the hometown of state BJP chief Ashwani Sharma, the Congress bagged 37 seats of total 50. The BJP won 12 seats, 22 less than what it won in outgoing dispensation. It's a major setback for the party as it had a "large committed vote bank of traders and shopkeepers who were traditional party voters". The saffron party found itself facing the wrath of the residents over the farm laws.

In Gurdaspur, the Congress won all 29 wards. This is seen as a setback for two-time MLA and Gurdaspur SAD chief Gurba Singh Babbar who had visited almost all wards to drum up support.

Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa in Batala. TRIBUNE PHOTO



IN 2021...

CIVIC BODIES	CONG	SAD	BJP	AAP	BSP	IND
116	1,484	294	47	57	5	278

IN 2015...

CIVIC BODIES	CONG	SAD	BJP	BSP	IND
122	252	813	348	3	631

HOW THE PARTIES FARE*

DISTRICT	CONG	SAD	AAP	BJP
Amritsar	39	25	0	0
Bathinda	111	26	3	0
Barnala	28	10	3	0
Fatehgarh Sahib	52	8	6	0
Ferozepur	88	13	1	0
Faridkot	44	13	3	1
Fazilka	40	6	3	4
Gurdaspur	73	12	0	0
Hoshiarpur	61	6	4	3
Jalandhar	47	1	0	1
Kapurthala	10	3	0	0
Ludhiana	82	16	3	2
Muktsar	49	19	2	1
Mansa	22	6	4	0
Moga	21	9	4	0
Nawanshahr				

17 candidates draw a blank in Kotkapura

FARIDKOT, FEBRUARY 17
In a dismal show, eight candidates of SAD, five of the BJP, and four of AAP have failed to get even a single vote in the MC elections in Kotkapura.

All 29 candidates of the BJP could garner only 1,055 (2.3 per cent) of total 46,040 polled votes in Kotkapura. While five candidates failed to get even a single vote, 12 other candidates polled less than 20 votes in their wards. The reason is attributed to the parties fielding outsiders in some wards.

Of the 25 seats, Congress won 16, SAD 7, AAP 1 and Independent 1. In Jaito, of the 17 wards, the Congress won 7 seats, Independents 4, SAD 3, AAP 2 and BJP 1.—TNS

Amid Cong sweep, CPI firms up strength at Joga



CIVIC BODY POLL

SAMEER SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANSA, FEBRUARY 17
Notwithstanding the sweeping victory by the ruling Congress in the civic body elections in the state, Independent candidates backed by the CPI have won 12 seats of the total 13 in the Joga Nagar Panchayat of Mansa district.

The SAD and Congress had not fielded their candidates on the party symbols following which the CPI-backed candidates also

Inds backed by Left win 12 of 13 seats

PARTY STRONGHOLD

◆ The CPI has been sweeping elections in Joga for the past many years. It's a victory of the invaluable contribution of Jangir Singh Joga and other farm activists of the area, who have shaped narrative of local politics. People from the area have also made significant contribution to the ongoing farmers' agitation against three agricultural laws."

"Since the Independents, fielded by the two major traditional parties, had forged an unannounced alliance, the CPI district unit also decided to field their candidates as Independents without the party symbol," Brar added.

decided to contest without these. Earlier, in the 2015 civic body elections also, the CPI had won nine seats.

Balkaran Singh Brar, CPI general secretary, said, "The

CPI has been sweeping elections in Joga for the past many years. Apart from development works being carried out by previously elected candidates, it's also a victory of the invaluable contribution of Jangir Singh Joga and other farm activists of the area, who have shaped narrative of local politics.

People from the area have also made significant contribution to the ongoing farmers' agitation against three agricultural laws."

"Since the Independents, fielded by the two major traditional parties, had forged an unannounced alliance, the CPI district unit also decided to field their candidates as Independents without the party symbol," Brar added.

Youth Akali leader Bar-

Distant second, Majitha only saving grace for Akali Dal

JUPINDERJIT SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 17
Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal's resignation from the Union Cabinet over the farm laws and intense campaigning by SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal have failed to get the desired results for the party in the civic body poll.

Winning just 294 of the 2,165 seats in all municipal bodies, the SAD stood a distant second to the ruling Congress. While the party lost badly in Sukhbir's constituency Jalalabad and Harsimrat's constituency Bathinda, the saving grace was Majitha—the citadel of Sukhbir's brother-in-law Bikram Singh Majitha—where it won 10 of the 13 seats.

In Bathinda, the party

GAVE TOUGH FIGHT

◆ Our candidates gave a tough fight to the Congress across the state with almost all seats witnessing a direct contest between the Congress and SAD.

Daljit Singh Cheema, SAD SPOKESMAN

could manage to win only seven of the 50 seats and in Jalalabad just five of the 17 seats.

Jagtar Sandhu, historian and former journalist, said in the last local bodies election, the Akali Dal was in

power with the BJP and hence captured the election, but this time, it was the Congress. "But still, one can't ignore the results in key constituencies of Bathinda, Jalalabad and Majitha belonging to the top leaders. It seems that Majitha still has a grip over his constituency," he said.

In a message on the social media, Sukhbir said the party workers battled unprecedented repression, money bags and government machinery and yet emerged as a force to reckon with. He said the party had stood second and the writing on the wall was that in the 2022 election, the Congress would be routed. Harcharn Bains, party's principal adviser, said the results were encouraging.

He said the results were a positive sign for the forthcoming Assembly election. "We will overcome our shortcomings after self-assessment. We will work to further strengthen the party," he added.

AAP vote base up in urban areas: Cheema

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 17
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today said the party had contested the MC election for the first time and welcomed the verdict given by the voters.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema said the results were a good sign for the party. "The party's base in urban areas has increased and the party's vote share is also up significantly. This is a sign that AAP will emerge stronger in urban areas by 2022," he said.

The AAP leader said before the last Assembly elections, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had made many promises to the people of Punjab but these were yet to be fulfilled by him.—TNS

No majority, ruling party eyes Inds in Moga

Congress MLA Harjot Kamal's wife loses



A child garlands Gurpreet Singh Sachdeva who won as an Ind in Moga.

Jinder Singh Brar, alias Makhan Brar, his father Jathedar Tota Singh and former MLA Joginder Pal Jain have also started con-

tacting the Independents. Though it's not going to be easy for the SAD, if the AAP councillors and the lone BJP councillor

extend support to the party, it will only require support of five Independents to gain majority.

Majority of the people were reportedly fed up with the policies of the Congress, widespread corruption and unwarranted interference of the local MLA in the administrative affairs of the local body.

With poor show in the MC poll, the COngress will have to rethink its political strategy with just one year left for the Assembly election.

Political observers say these results will have far-reaching consequences and may cast a shadow on the Assembly election. Some say the electoral outcome may plunge Moga into a leadership crisis within the Congress and it may have to look for a new face for the 2022 election.

Cong wrests Ferozepur from BJP

FEROZEPUR, FEBRUARY 17

The Congress today trounced all rival parties to make a historic clean sweep in the municipal council elections in the three sub-divisions of this border district.

In Ferozepur, the Congress wrested the power from the BJP by winning all 33 seats. The BJP, which had won 19 seats in the previous MC poll in 2015, failed to make a mark this time. The SAD and AAP were also unable to register their presence in the poll. The BJP candidates had contested in 12 wards.

This is for the first time that the Congress has grabbed all 33 seats in this municipality which hitherto used to be a citadel of the saffron party.

Similarly, in Guruharsai, the Congress emerged victorious in all 15 wards.



Likewise, in Zira, the Congress grabbed all 17 seats unopposed amidst allegations of misuse of official machinery.

In Talwandi Bhai, the Congress won 10 seats while the SAD managed to win 2 seats. AAP also won maiden seat in the entire district from Talwandi Bhai. In Mudki, the Akalis

were able to retain eight seats, which they had won in 2015. In Ferozepur city, Aaqib Akhtar, nephew of Cabinet Minister Razia Sultana, won with a margin of 697 votes.

Interestingly, in Ferozepur 558 voters, in Mandot 222, in Mudki 47 and in Talwandi Bhai 79 voters, used NOTA.—OC

Jatha to Pak refused permission, SGPC fumes

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 17
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MEA) has denied permission to a Sikh jatha that was to leave for Pakistan on Thursday for the centennial of the Nankana Sahib massacre. As many as 730 visas were issued by the Pakistan Embassy for the February 21 event.

Citing security concerns, the SGPC received a fax message from the MEA on Wednesday evening, stating that recent inputs indicated a threat to Indian citizens visiting Pakistan. It also pointed out that movement on the India-Pakistan border had been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A furious SGPC president, Bibi Jagir Kaur, claimed that restrictions on the jatha at the eleventh hour when all preparations had been made and documents furnished revealed Centre's "anti-Sikh" mindset. "The MEA stated that the jatha could not be allowed to proceed to

ED conducts raid at Jalandhar club

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 17
Sleuths of the ED from Delhi today conducted a raid at Club Cabana, suspecting some hawala transactions. The sleuths inspected the site, recovered some documents and got along two officials from the premises to its local office on Cool Road. Till late evening, the team was interrogating Shiv Lal Pubby, an NRI and partner in the club, and his aide Mukesh Sharma, in a suspected FEMA violation case. The error is regretted.

Trains diverted due to farm stir

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, FEBRUARY 17
With reference to the news item, 'Railways cancels, diverts trains for tomorrow's rail roko', published in this column on Wednesday, the officials have clarified that the Railways had cancelled and diverted trains not in the view of the 'rail roko' call of the farmers, but in the view of the ongoing farmers' agitation between Beas and Amritsar stations. The error is regretted.



HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
(A State Govt. Undertaking) Press Tender Notice
(E-Tendering Mode Only)

Online tender is hereby invited on "Partially turnkey basis" (Single Part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla - 4 from the bidders/ joint venture firms/ Co-operative societies of Retired Employees of HPSEB Ltd. having A-Class Electrical Contractor license from Chief Electrical Inspector HP Govt. Shimla, for the work:-

Tender No.: OCNDB-NIT-014/2020-21
Tender for 90/114V LT Lamps for domestic lighting for LVSS Bagh Substation 1 and 2% from Basant Kameisha in (E) Sector 82 in ESD Raigarh under ESD Raigarh SCSP Scheme 2020-21.

Estimated Amount in ₹: ₹ 28,900/-
Earliest Money in ₹: ₹ 2500 + 18% GST (₹ 2940/-)

Price of Tender documents (non-refundable) in ₹: ₹ 100/-

Completion Period: Upto 31.03.2021

Completion Period: 03.03.2021 to 07.03.2021 (5.00PM)

Last date of receipt of tender documents: 08.03.2021 (11.30AM)

Due date of opening of Techno Commercial bids: 08.03.2021 (11.30AM)

Key Dates:-

1. Date of online publication – 03.03.2021

2. Start date and time of bid submission – 03.03.2021 (at 10.00AM)

3. End date and time of bid submission - 07.03.2021 (upto 11.00 AM)

4. Date & Time of opening of techno comm. Bid – 08.03.2021 (at 11.30AM)

This bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted online on website <http://www.hptenders.gov.in>. Bidders are required to register in the website which is free of cost. For details of bidding process, terms and conditions, bid documents and bid bond certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). As per bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEB may obtain the same from the website <http://www.hptenders.gov.in>. DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CA's can use the same in this tender.

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer,
Operation Circle, HPSEB Ltd, Nahan



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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

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

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender (i/c G.S.T.)	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Class
1.	Providing flood protection work in left bank of Chanour Khad RD 0.00 to 400 to protect Ind. Area at Chanour Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 96,25,725/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 1,28,800/-	Four Months	A & B
2.	Providing flood protection work in left bank of Chanour Khad RD 400 to 665 to protect Ind. Area at Chanour Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 58,57,918/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 91,100/-	Four Months	B & C
3.	Providing flood protection work in left bank of Chanour Khad RD 665 to 930 to protect Ind. Area at Chanour Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 57,83,108/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 90,300/-	Four Months	B & C
4.	Providing flood protection work in left bank of Chanour Khad RD 930 to 1195 to protect Ind. Area at Chanour Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 57,30,776/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 89,800/-	Four Months	B & C
5.	Providing flood protection work in left bank of Chanour Khad RD 1195 to 1555 to protect Ind. Area at Chanour Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs. 76,15,966/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 1,08,700/-	Four Months	B & C
6.	Construction of Silk Seed production centre at Thunag Distt. Mandi (HP).	Rs. 1,92,54,384/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 2,25,000/-	Eighteen Months	A & B
7.	Construction of Veterinary Hospital at Gehrwin Distt. Bilaspur (HP).	Rs. 41,81,233/-	Rs. 4900/-	Rs. 70,200/-	Nine Months	B & C

Schedule and terms and conditions:-

| Date and time for download of bidding documents from e-procurement portal. | Date & time for online submission of bids, required documents, cost of form and earnest money |
<th
| --- | --- |

Infighting in Dehra BJP to fore again

TREND NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, FEBRUARY 17

Factionalism in the Dehra BJP once again came to the fore during a meeting chaired by in-charge of party affairs in Himachal Avinash Rai Khanna yesterday. Sources said that Khanna had called a meeting of the Dehra BJP unit to iron out differences between various factions.

While the meeting was continuing, a former Bharatiya Janta Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leader along with his supporters came there. The party office-bearers attending the meeting objected to his presence. They alleged that as the former BJYM leader had contested as an Independent candidate against the official candidate of the BJP in the recently concluded Zila Parishad elections, he should not be allowed to attend the meeting. This led to arguments

Factions have heated arguments, Khanna leaves meeting

RSS LEADER BLAMED

Sources said BJP workers from Dehra and Jawalamukhi were accusing a senior RSS leader, who is calling the shots in the state, of fuelling infighting in the party.

between the two factions and some of their supporters even abused each other. Seeing the situation aggravating, Khanna left the meeting venue.

The sources said that the BJP workers from Dehra and Jawalamukhi were accusing a senior RSS leader, who is calling the shots in the state, of fuelling infighting in the party. Earlier BJP MLA from Jawalamukhi Ramesh Dhwawala had accused this RSS leader of interfering in his Assembly constituency.

LALIT MOHAN
TREND NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, FEBRUARY 17 A three-day BJP state executive meeting got underway here today. National president of party JP Nadda would address the meet tomorrow. Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur would join the meeting tomorrow. The executive meeting is scheduled from February 17 to 19.

Sources here said the BJP was gearing up for the Assembly election scheduled in the state at the end of 2022. It wanted to galvanise its grassroots level workers for the polls. The next Assembly elections were crucial for Nadda as Himachal is his home state which would be going to the polls during his stint as the national president.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, state BJP incharge Avinash Rai Khanna and state president of BJP Suresh Kayshap joined the executive



CM Jai Ram Thakur lights a lamp at the beginning of the three-day state executive meeting in Dharamsala on Wednesday.

meeting here. The sources here said in today's meeting the party first concentrated on training its workers for the forthcoming corporation elections in four corporations of state, Dharamsala, Palampur, Mandi and Solan. Three corporations at Palampur, Mandi and Solan have been formed recently by the current BJP government and would be going to the polls for the first time.

The corporation elections would be crucial for the current BJP government in the state as Assembly elections are scheduled for the next year-end. The CM has already announced that the elections would be held on party symbol and so it would be a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress.

Sources here said by-election of the Fatehpur Assembly constituency in Kangra would also come up for discussion during the meeting. The Assembly seat fell vacant due

to the death of Congress MLA Sujan Singh Pathania.

The sources here said though the by-election for the Fatehpur Assembly constituency was likely to be held along with West Bengal Assembly elections a few months from now, probable candidates for by-elections would be discussed in executive meeting. Since hardly any mega infrastructure has come to ground during the stint of the present BJP government in last more than three years, the party is harping on the achievements of the Union government to romp home in Himachal. Party workers are being trained to take to voters the achievements of the Modi government as well as doing away of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and Ram Temple construction.

The party workers were being trained to counter the issues such as rising prices of petrol and diesel and LPG which have hit the middle class hard. A turnover of around Rs 8 crore was detected in which goods had been transported in 400 trucks. A penalty of Rs 1.73 crore was imposed out of which

₹1.73 cr tax evasion detected in Sirmaur

TREND NEWS SERVICE

UNREGISTERED TRADERS

TWO unregistered Punjab traders were found engaged in trading of iron, bricks, electricity items, etc. in Paonta Sahib since January 2020.

Rs 68 lakh has been recovered. A sum of Rs 10 lakh was recovered today," said deputy commissioner, State Taxes and Excise, Preetpal Singh, who headed the four-member team.

A penalty under the Certain Goods Carried by Road Tax and Additional Goods Tax amounting to Rs 10,50,651 has also been imposed. The traders have been directed to deposit the remaining amount in one month, said Singh.

Notably, the laxity of officials in the past has led to evasion of taxes worth Rs 6,000 crore in the Indian Technomac Company Limited in the Paonta Sahib area, whose officials had fled after closing their operations.

RERA settles 12 cases, realtor to refund ₹52 lakh

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 17

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has facilitated a compromise between a real estate promoter and complainants, resulting in a refund of Rs 52.31 lakh.

RERA official said 12 of 14 complaints received were decided in favour of the allottees while the other two are pending against Himalayan Residency, located in the Bhari area of the town.

In the two complaints, a mutual compromise was arrived at. — TNS



The leopard hides confiscated near Dehra in Kangra.

Three leopard hides confiscated, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NURPUR, FEBRUARY 17

Dehra police in Kangra district arrested two motorcycle riders with three leopard hides last night.

As per the information, police had set up a naka at Kundlihaar village on the Dehra-Jawalaji road. Police men on duty signalled a motorcycle coming from the Dehra side to stop but bike riders on seeing a police team fled. The police chased them and nabbed the duo.

DSP Dehra Ankit Sharma said three bullet-ridden leopard hides were recovered from their possession. Two accused hailing from Majeen village had been arrested. He said more accused involved in the crime were still at large.

A case under section 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act, section 25 of the Indian Arms Act and 34 of the IPC had been registered.

As per information, international market value of the confiscated leopard hides is stated to Rs 10 lakh each. The police are suspecting involvement of a local gang engaged in killing leopards and selling their hides.

erred from their possession. Two accused hailing from Majeen village had been arrested. He said more accused involved in the crime were still at large.

A case under section 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act, section 25 of the Indian Arms Act and 34 of the IPC had been registered.

As per information, international market value of the confiscated leopard hides is stated to Rs 10 lakh each. The police are suspecting involvement of a local gang engaged in killing leopards and selling their hides.

Tribal cuisines presented at snow fest

Single window clearance workshop for homestay registration begins

KULLU, FEBRUARY 17

Local cuisines were the centre of attraction on the 24th day of the snow festival at Hull village in the Spiti valley of Lahaul and Spiti district today. Spiti SDM Jeewan Singh Negi, who was the chief guest, lit the lamp to commence the colorful cultural programme. Mahila Mandal of Hull village presented Tashi dance while the Yuvak Mandal performed traditional Gur dance. Meanwhile, the district administration organised a two-day



A group performs during the snow festival at Kaza on Wednesday.

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA AIR FORCE STATION BARNALA (PUNJAB) 148109

RECRUITMENT FOR THE VARIOUS POST ON PART TIME CONTRACTUAL BASIS FOR THE SESSION 2021-22

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Applications are invited for recruitment on Part time Contract basis only against various posts in this Vidyalaya. Candidates are required to apply only in the prescribed Performa online, available on the link <https://bit.ly/2YQ8L4C>. The interested and eligible candidates will report to this Vidyalaya along with original documents as per following schedule.

S.No.	Posts	Date & Time of Interview
1.	PGT (Hindi, Math, English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology) TGT (Hindi, English, Science, Math, Sanskrit)	23 Feb 2021 (9:00 am onwards)
2.	PGT (Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Computer Science), Computer Instructor TGTs (Social Studies), TGT Punjabi	24 Feb 2021 (9:00 am onwards)
3.	PRTs, Counselor, Nurse, Sports Coach, Yoga Teacher.	25 Feb 2021 (9:00 am onwards)

* For minimum qualifications, remuneration and further information, please visit Vidyalaya website: <https://afsbaranala.kvs.ac.in>.

* Addendum, Corrigendum and Amendments if any will be uploaded on Vidyalaya Website only.

Sd/- Principal

FLAMING ARROW ARMY PRE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW AMRITSAR MIL STN (NAMS), KHASA CANTT AMRITSAR, PUNJAB

Invites Application from Graduates/Post Graduates with M.Ed/B.Ed/NTT from Govt. Recognised Institutions Only for **TEACHERS**

Application Forms are available in school from Monday to Friday (0900 HR TO 1300HR)

Last Date for Submission of Application Form Along with Self Attested Documents/Certificates is **24 Feb 2021**

Interview is Scheduled for **01 March and 02 March 2021**

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE PUNJAB
BAY NO. 34-38, SECTOR 31-A, CHANDIGARH-160030 Phone No.: 0172-2638543, 2638544, Fax: 2638259

Invitation of Online Tenders for Appointment of Regular and Adhoc Handling & Transport Contractors/Road Transport Contractors/Handling Contractors/Long Route Transport Contractor at Various Centres of FCI, Punjab Region, Appointment of Vendors for Providing Vehicle Tracking Services for Owned/Hired/Rental Vehicles used by FCI Road Transport Contractor at Various Centres of Punjab Region, For Appointment of Service Provider for Containerized Movement of Food Grains. (www.eprocure.gov.in)

TENDER NOTICE

The name of centers for which tenders have been floated for Public and the information regarding the same are given in the detailed NIT on the website www.eprocure.gov.in (CPP Portal). The same will be available online.

Important dates for Adhoc TE 25.02.2021

Last date of online submission of tender form : 24.02.2021 upto 05:00 PM
Opening of technical bids : 25.02.2021 at 5:00 PM

Important dates for Regular TE 12.03.2021

Last date of online submission of tender form : 10.03.2021 upto 05:00 PM
Opening of technical bids : 12.03.2021 at 11:00 AM
Pre Bid Meeting 22.02.2021 at Regional Office Punjab, Chandigarh, GENERAL MANAGER (PUNJAB)

CENTER OF INNOVATIVE AND APPLIED BIOPROCESSING (CIAB)
(A National Institute under Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)
Sector-81 (Knowledge City), Manauli P.O., S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali - 140306 (Punjab); Tel: 0172-5221400

Advt. No. CIAB/58/2021-Rectt.

CIAB invites candidates for walk-in interview for temporary positions of Research Associate, Senior Research Fellow and Junior Research Fellow in the areas of Life Sciences/Material Science and Engineering/Chemical Sciences/Chemical Engineering on 04-03-2021. For further details and specifics, please visit our website: www.ciab.res.in. (Chief Executive Officer)

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Shahpur invites following offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of tender form	Time Limit
1	Restoration of rain damage of LWSS Salo in Tehsil & Distt, Kangra. (HP). (SH:- Supply and installation of Horizontal pumping machinery set No. 2).	390000/-	7800/-	250/-	Two Months
2	A/R & M/O LWSS Ghalian Thakurdwara Phase-2 in Tehsil & Distt. Kangra. (HP). (SH:- Replacement of centrifugal pump without allied accessories set No. 2).	450000/-	9000/-	250/-	One Month

Last date of offline tenders 20/02/2021 upto 5.00 PM and tender opened on 22/02/2021 at 11.30 AM.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Shahpur.

DPR/HP/5824

Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 4 Bathinda Cantt
केन्द्रीय विद्यालय सं 4, बठिंडा कैट

Website: <http://no4bathinda.kvs.ac.in> E. Mail: bathindavk4@gmail.com

SCHOOL CODE: 1298, STATION CODE: 173, AFFILIATION NUMBER: 1600024
School Number: 24545, REGION CODE: 07, Tel: 0164 2290106
F.N.O./KV NO.4/BITCANNTT/2020-21/ **WALK IN INTERVIEW** Date: 17/02/2021

Walk in interview to prepare panel for appointment of teachers on part time contractual basis for the session 2021-22 as per schedule given below-

Date	S.NO.	Name of the Post	Essential Qualifications and remuneration
24/02/2021 9:00 AM	1	Primary Teacher, Nurse, Sports Coach, Edu. Counsellor, Yoga Instructor.	For clarification regarding qualification & remuneration visit www.kvsangathan.nic.in
25/02/2021 9:00 AM	2	PGT (English, Hindi), TGT (Hindi, English, Sanskrit), PGT- Computer Science, Computer Instructor, Data Entry Operator.	Visit Vidyalaya website for apply online and related information. https://no4bathinda.kv.s.ac.in/
26/02/2021 9:00 AM	3	PGT- (Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Commerce, History, Geography, Biology), TGT- (Maths, Science, Social Science).	The desirous candidates having requisite qualifications and fulfilling eligibility conditions may attend the interview as per schedule bring all original documents and one set of photocopies of documents for verification. Submit online application on or before 22/02/2021.

Sd/- Principal

epaper.tribuneindia.com

DECade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030

Common Ailments among Elderly

- High Blood Pressure
- High Blood Sugar
- Vision & hearing impairment
- Dental Problems
- Breathing problems
- Urinary Problems
- Joint Pain
- Memory Loss

Healthcare Services for Elderly in Haryana

Separate Queue for Senior Citizens at Registration, OPD, Lab, Pharmacy Counters

Non Communicable Diseases-cum-Geriatric Clinics

Hospital & Sanitary Attendant to Assist The Elderly

Physiotherapy Services at District Civil Hospitals

Govt. of Haryana

This decade has been dedicated for the Healthcare of the Elderly (60 years and above)

For Healthy Ageing

- Do regular physical activities
- Take balanced diet including fruits & vegetables
- Avoid smoking & alcohol
- Participate in activities you enjoy
- Get regular health checkups
- If on medication, take medicines regularly

Improve their Quality of Life by

- Keeping them engaged & spending time with them
- Helping them learn new skills
- Encouraging for regular physical activities
- Making elderly friendly modifications in the house

Swasth Jeevan Shanti
Swasth Vastraavastha

National Health Mission, Haryana

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Invoking sedition law

Powerful tool being misused to curb dissent

THE increasing use of the sedition law by the authorities in recent years has led to allegations that this colonial-era provision is being invoked largely to stifle the citizens' freedom of speech and expression, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. The arrest of environment activist Disha Ravi over a toolkit in support of the protesting farmers is a case in point. Even though the document makes no mention of violence or incitement to violent behaviour, the 22-year-old woman has been booked on the charge of sedition. Whether she was aware of the Khalistani leanings of the group allegedly behind the toolkit has also not been established so far. Amid the outrage over Disha's arrest, a Delhi court has granted bail to a man accused of posting fake videos on Facebook on the farmers' protests. The court has asserted that the sedition law cannot be invoked to 'quieten disquiet under the pretence of muzzling the miscreants', especially if there is no 'exhortation or incitement to create disorder or disturb public peace or resort to violence'.

There is no denying that Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC is a powerful tool that the State can use any time for the purpose of maintaining peace and order. However, its indiscriminate application threatens to undermine its potency and efficacy. Even as the number of sedition cases registered in India has risen from 35 in 2016 to 93 in 2019, the conviction rate has been going down — from 33 per cent in 2016 to merely 3 per cent in 2019. No wonder the persons acquitted or discharged considerably outnumber those who are sentenced.

In *Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar* (1962), the Supreme Court had made it clear that 'strong words used to express disapprobation of the measures of the Government with a view to their improvement or alteration by lawful means' did not amount to sedition. This ruling puts the onus on law enforcers to come up with indisputable evidence of incitement to violence or disturbance of public peace. Raising the bogey of sedition on flimsy pretexts will only weaken the law and enfeeble democracy.

Cong makes clean sweep

SAD, BJP, AAP marginalised amid farmers' stir

RIDING majorly on the wave of goodwill earned by the farmers protesting against the new agriculture laws on Delhi's borders since November, the Congress in Punjab has romped home to a massive victory. With seven municipal corporations and nearly 100 of the 109 municipal councils and nagar panchayats in its bag, the Congress is firmly in the saddle. Over 71 per cent of the electorate turned out to stamp their preference in the largely peaceful urban local body polls held on February 14. While the SAD is a distant second to the Congress, the BJP and AAP — the other two major contenders — find themselves routed and pushed further to the fringes.

The writing was on the wall for the BJP from the beginning. The shadow of the farmers' stir — that has a groundswell of support from all sections of people — loomed over the election campaigning as the saffron party and its workers faced public wrath. Sensing an alienation from the masses, its long-time ally, SAD, had already broken ties with it a couple of months earlier. Public ire translated into the defeat of the ruling BJP-JJP in the neighbouring Haryana too when it lost two of the three mayoral seats and all three posts of municipal committee president in December-end. Bucking the general trend of the ruling party emerging as the winner, the political shift in Haryana was a pointer to the party losing ground. The Punjab poll outcome has dented any hopes that the BJP may have nursed of making a comeback in the state.

Similarly, SAD and AAP need to sharpen their strategies aimed at the progress of Punjab to reconnect with the masses and win back their trust. For, the next acid test — the Assembly election — is due next year. Meanwhile, with 50 per cent seats reserved for women for the first time in the civic body polls in Punjab, the onus of improving the wards lies equally on the new (and veteran) women councilors and mayors as the male representatives. It's time they exerted their power and not be mere puppets of their menfolk.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I am not a liberator. Liberators do not exist. The people liberate themselves. — Che Guevara

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1921

THE PUNJAB RESOLUTION.

THE late Mr. Kristodas Pal, whose loyalty to the Government as by law established in India no well-informed person will question, once described a settlement of a contested issue between Europeans and Indians as a compromise which had brought peace without honour. The same must be the feelings of the self-respecting Indian as he rises from a perusal of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in connection with Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas's resolution on the Punjab disturbances, with this substantial difference that the peace in this case is not peace as between official authority and the people generally, but between the former and the persons who are supposed to represent the latter in the country's highest legislative body. It is difficult to think of a more artificial atmosphere, an atmosphere more removed from the actualities of the country's present mood, than that in which this apology for a debate took place. It was congratulation all round. The mover of the resolution began by congratulating His Royal Highness the Duke on his speech and the Government of India themselves on their allowing him to move his resolution on the first business day, and one perusing his speech in cold print, if not also one listening to it while it was being delivered, would form the impression that he was far more earnest in his denunciation of Mahatma Gandhi and his associates than in his condemnation of those atrocities for which he had taken it upon himself to demand reparation. The Home Member, who spoke on behalf of the Government, similarly congratulated the mover of the resolution on "the admirable tone of his speech" and held it up as an example to other members "in the present stage of the country." Other speakers took their cue from the two principal "combatants".

Isolation of Myanmar

Recipe for increasing Chinese influence in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean



G PARTHASARATHY

CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY & FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN

MILITARY dictatorships are now frowned upon across the world. Despite this, military coups do happen, particularly in Africa. Military dictators face prospects of ostracisation and denial of foreign aid. There are two countries in Asia — Pakistan and Myanmar — where the military exercises a strong influence on national affairs, and in shaping government policies. The authority wielded by the Pakistan army is unconstitutional. It knows how to manipulate politicians, and how to dump them. Despite this, the US has frequently been more comfortable with the army's extra-constitutional role in Pakistan.

While Myanmar attained independence from the British in 1948, it was, thereafter, under military rule from 1962 to 2011. An army-dominated government ruled Myanmar till 2015, and Aung San Suu Kyi became the de facto ruler in 2016, after her National League for Democracy won the national elections. But under Myanmar's 2008 constitution, key portfolios like defence and internal security are managed by the military, which also has 110 seats in Parliament. Having married a foreigner, Suu Kyi, is disqualified from becoming President. She took over power by being designated as 'state counsellor', while the President became a mere figurehead. Despite these shortcomings, Suu Kyi, whose father was Myanmar's founding father and first President, wielded the powers of office skillfully, and mustered growing public support.

Myanmar has been troubled by ethnic insurrections since its birth. There are 31 armed ethnic groups, holding control of vast tracts of the country.



ON EDGE: A majority of Myanmar's ASEAN neighbours in Southeast Asia are opposed to any sanctions. REUTERS

India would have to work closely with Japan, as it has done in the past, to steer negotiations.

Some of these groups are funded and armed by China. But thanks to the shortsightedness of western sanctions, China has gained a stronger economic and political foothold in the country. Years of sanctions have given China a dominant say in Myanmar's economy. China's economic policies are regarded as mercantile in Myanmar. Thanks to some skillful diplomacy over the past three decades, India has established a good rapport with both Myanmar's military and political leaders. Indian economic aid has improved communications in Myanmar and led to the development of IT facilities there.

The Bay of Bengal Port of Sittwe in Myanmar was recently built by India. It will serve as a valuable outlet to the sea for India's northeastern states. While foreign investment has been welcomed in Myanmar, it is China that has derived the maximum benefit from its investments in Myanmar, together with private companies from countries like Singapore, Thailand, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam, making significant inroads. India recently provided Myanmar with its first submarine. Maritime and military cooperation with Myanmar is steadily

expanding. The contribution of India's private sector to investment and business in Myanmar has been virtually non-existent.

Despite its closeness to China, Myanmar has played an important role in curbing and ending the activities of insurgent groups in India's Northeast. Many of India's armed separatist groups like the NSCN (K) and NSCN (IM) in Nagaland, ULFA in Assam and separatist groups in Manipur, used to regularly enter Myanmar and establish ties with local separatist groups there, like the Kachin Independence Army. They would enter China's Yunnan province, where they were feted, armed and trained. Myanmar has cooperated with India in preventing such activities. India, in turn, has prevented Myanmar's separatist groups, like the Arakan Army, from establishing bases on Indian soil. Recognising that things could get out of hand in Myanmar, on the eve of elections there, India sent its Army Chief and Foreign Secretary to Myanmar in October 2020 for meetings with Commander-in-Chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and state counsellor Suu

Kyi. The Chinese foreign minister soon followed suit.

Not surprisingly, Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, was swept to power again, winning 258 out of the 330 seats. The military is required to nominate 110 candidates to Parliament. According to the Myanmar constitution, Parliament was to be convened on February 3. The army struck on February 2, seizing power, while placing Suu Kyi and her followers under arrest. This has been accompanied by a crackdown on peoples' resistance, including demonstrations by healthcare workers, civil servants and teachers. The western powers were till then inclined to be highly critical of Suu Kyi for backing the army's crackdown on the Rohingya, which led their fleeing to Bangladesh and India. They have, however, now demanded her release. The G-7 grouping, comprising the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, as well as the EU called on Myanmar's military to immediately end the state of emergency and restore power to the democratically elected government.

Any move of the UNSC to end military rule and seek restoration of democratic government will be vetoed by Russia and China. Moreover, a majority of Myanmar's ASEAN neighbours in Southeast Asia are opposed to any sanctions. Japan and India have been working together in dealing with the situation in Myanmar. Tokyo recognises that isolating Myanmar will only force the Myanmar army into a closer embrace of China. India would, therefore, have to work with Japan, as it has done in the past, to steer negotiations. During the past five years, Myanmar's dependence on China has been reduced by 24%. Myanmar has also not yielded to China's pressures for the construction of a \$3.6-billion hydel project on its Myitsone river. Unlike Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Myanmar has been very careful in not getting drawn into a Chinese debt trap. India and Japan will have to persuade the US and Australia to remember that isolating Myanmar is a recipe for increasing the Chinese presence and influence in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

A mudhouse revisited

RAJESH SHARMA

LIVING in the plains of Punjab, it was a visit to Sardar Sobha Singh Art Gallery at Andretta in the Kangra valley that had inspired my friend to plan a slate-roofed mudhouse on the premises of his sprawling farmhouse.

We both climbed a kilometre of cobble path in the lap of the Dhauladhar to meet a nonagenarian mason, straight of spine and sharp of mind. It made me travel back 55 years in time, when my father had undertaken the construction of his house. It was to be the first slate-roofed house in the village.

A mason of repute was engaged for Rs 5 as his daily wage and paid an equal

amount for an advance. The carpenters and labourers received Rs 2 a day.

A mango grove saw felling and the land was flattened. Sliding on the slopes of excavated earth was great fun. I contributed to brick-making by shaving off the spilled-over clay from the sides of the mould, once the bricks were half dry and turned over. At the age of seven years then, the belief was that it was I who was building my parents' house.

Roughly dressed boulders made for the foundations. It was also the first house in the village to adopt baked bricks. However, my father chose to use baked bricks only on the outer sides of the walls, with match-sized mud bricks forming the inner table.

An insulation against extremes of temperature, the idea was possibly captured by his regular reading of magazines and dailies.

For laying the first floor, dried bamboo lengths were aligned and placed across from wall to wall, with a hewn wooden beam giving midway support. Split open and spread flat, green bamboo lengths with full thickness called 'chhamman', made for a layering atop it. Next, a thick spread of fresh jamun leaves was placed over it. A very fat layer of rather stiff mud consisting of clay, sandy soil and straw made up the top layer. I was involved in mixing and kneading of this dense mud. A slurry of fine clay and cow dung plastered on to the walls and

floors made the final coating.

The slates were procured from Khaniara mines near Dharamsala, and one fine morning, as my father arrived with a truckload, it thrilled me. Seasoned 'semal' wood made for the battens on wooden trusses to anchor the rows of slates. After a year, the house was ready for a whitewash. It was another first in the village, white-washed walls! Till then, house walls were washed in locally mined light grey clay, known as 'goloo'.

As I fondly remembered all this, a contract was finalised with the legendary mason who would soon be on his way to the plains of Punjab to guide a local team in the building of a mudhouse for my rich friend.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The toolkit in my soul

I, too, have a toolkit concealed in my soul and spirit. As a poet and writer, I have been gifted with such a kit by the divine muse above and within. There are many a simile, sharp-edged wit, twisting metaphor, sceptical symbols, and other devices with which to hone my skills. And an 80-year-old pen that often soils my fingers but enthuses my tempers. I have been kindly assigned the duty, or 'karma', of empathising with the common man in order to give the fittest expressions to his weal and woes, joys and travails. And also to needle the powers that be for the humiliation heaped on him with the wheels within wheels craft and cunning to fix him behind bars. I can't help being what I am. So, come O' the hidden hands, to knock at my humble door, and take me away if you can, and slap sedition charges on my pen and soul, if you can!

AMRITLAL MADAN, KAITHAL

Disinformation campaign

Disinformation attacks use manipulated, mis-contextualised, misappropriated information and deep fakes to exploit our inherent cognitive biases, logical fallacies and psychological vulnerabilities. Disinformation campaigns could widen the divide between people and communities,

causing unimaginable levels of chaos and violence. Stringent laws should be formulated to deal with this threat.

ROHIT KUMAR GUPTA, SHIMLA

Data privacy

Without data privacy laws in place, pulling up WhatsApp is untenable. People are using social media platforms of their own volition and if they feel that their privacy is compromised, they have the option to stop using it or migrate to other platforms of their liking, which is already being witnessed. Exodus of netizens to Telegram and Signal is at work. In the current times, people are themselves wittingly revealing their private lives on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The issue is being blown out of proportion. The government has a propensity to block the Internet, Twitter handles of dissenters and aspires that these platforms do its bidding. Perhaps the executive and judiciary are overly striving to breathe down the necks of these platforms.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA

Privacy matters

Refer to 'Privacy at stake'; WhatsApp's controversial privacy update over data-sharing plans with Facebook and Instagram has stoked a backlash. The differentiating policy for Europeans and Indians has cre-

ated a grave apprehension in the minds of the people. The right to privacy is people's prime concern, as stated by the CJI. There have been certain instances where this right has been at risk, like during the enactment of the Aadhaar Act. People are losing faith in the legal system as it does not meet the required standard. It is the duty of the courts to look into the stumbling block.

SAKSHI ARORA, BATHINDA

Rampant four-laning

Four-laning over the past few years has resulted in landslides and disturbed the ecological balance in Kullu, Solan and Shimla. Have we learnt nothing so far? Anything at the cost of nature can't bring us any good. Himachal is already experiencing rising temperatures. If more trees will be cut, what happened in Uttarakhand could occur in Himachal too. A crane will take 5 minutes to uproot a tree, but it takes a sapling many years to become a tree. Now, imagine hundreds of trees being cut. Would we be able to revive forests in time? It is utter devastation in the name of development. We are inviting a catastrophe. Why aren't we controlling traffic? Why aren't we encouraging the automobile industry to bring in more electric cars? Why are we killing Himachal?

ROHIT S MODGIL, NEHRIAN

Coup in neighbourhood

The overthrow of the Aung San Suu Kyi government in Myanmar through a military coup cannot be called justifiable at any cost even though she herself was running her country like a despotic leader. Though conferred with the Nobel Prize in 1991 for her non-violent struggle for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Myanmar, lately she was globally condemned for her indifferent approach towards her own people (Rohingya). But a coup is a heinous assault on the people's rights and liberty. India's role in this region becomes more significant. India's firm stand against the coup is appreciative and as expected from a country which stands as an emblem of democracy to the world. India ought to play an active role in the restoration of democracy.

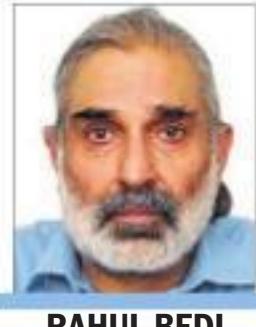
AMANDEEP BAINS, KURUKSHETRA

Plastic menace

Plastic has become an essential ingredient in our daily life. All things are packed in plastic, or plastic containers. It has led to the spread of pollution all around. We lack civic sense and throw plastic waste wherever we like — riverbeds, nullahs and rivulets. We must minimise its use. The government should look into the problem.

SANTOSH JAMWAL, HAMIRPUR

Look into LAC lapses to be future-ready



RAHUL BEDI

SENIOR JOURNALIST

WITH the complementary withdrawal of Indian and Chinese troops from the bitterly contested Pangong Tso or Lake region along the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh underway, it is time for the government to consider launching a review into the intelligence and operational lapses resulting in the debilitating faceoff that erupted last May.

And though the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) ingress into the adjoining areas still awaits vacation, as does the restoration of the April 2020 military status quo ante along the LAC, a multi-disciplinary commission of inquiry needs establishing, similar to the one which followed the analogous 1999 intrusion by the Pakistan Army into Kargil, to manage the Chinese threat and Beijing's future duplicity.

The 1962 ambush by China followed the placatory Panchsheel Treaty eight years earlier, much like the slew of five bilateral border treaties and confidence-building measures 1993 onwards aimed at managing the LAC. Thereafter, the Lt Gen Henderson Brooks inquiry into the disastrous border war was never made public, with successive governments incredulously claiming that the report, of which just

two copies exist, remains 'sensitive' and of 'current operational value'.

However, a cross-section of serving military officers, veterans and defence analysts concede that a 'lessons learnt approach' emanating from such a suggested inquiry commission or review committee would assist in future projection of India's Comprehensive National Power, including military strength, to deal with a formidable foe like China. Such an endeavour would also help restructure tri-service cooperation, intelligence sharing, timely information dissemination and media management, amongst other aspects.

It would also assist in dealing with what is grudgingly accepted in military and security circles, that future Indian Army deployments along the LAC will duplicate those along the Line of Control and the Siachen glacier against Pakistan, as all previous Sino-Indian LAC-related protocols now stand nullified. New unassailable pacts, predicated to overarching distrust of China by India, will need to be concluded to ensure peace between the nuclear-armed neighbours till their 3,488-km-long LAC is eventually demarcated.

Doubtlessly, naysayers will assert that the Indian Army has, in recent months displayed flexibility, speed and steadfastness in its LAC deployments, as well as strategic chutzpah by seizing the commanding Kailash heights on Pangong Tso's southern bank, which helped determine the February 10 pullback agreement. But many veterans differ, claiming that rushing an additional 50,000 troops to man the LAC, including critical Army Headquarters reserves, was more a rushed 'battalion approach' to man the 800-km-long LAC flank in eastern

The proposed review would especially need to focus on the slip-ups leading to Chinese incursions despite the three-fold surveillance grid: regular joint foot patrols by the Army and ITBP supplemented by detailed imagery provided by UAVs and satellites. The govt would do well to emulate the Kargil Review Committee instituted by the Vajpayee govt in 1999 to inquire into the lapses.

TAKE STOCK: Reasons for China's ingress into Ladakh need to be ascertained. REUTERS

Ladakh, rather than a structured strategy.

For several decades, a resource-strapped and diffident India had followed the path of least resistance against China, sheltering behind multiple border treaties to ensure peace along the LAC with its more powerful neighbour. China, on the other hand, viewed the LAC accords as an abiding tactical measure, aimed at lulling an amenable India into a false sense of security for nearly three decades as it embarked on progressing its economy. It willfully 'persuaded' India, including its military into focusing on bilateral economic issues like trade and commerce, furthering diplomatic, political and even defence ties. Resolving the border imbroglio was interminably postponed

despite 23 rounds of talks between the respective Special Representatives, but China's 1959 claim lines in Ladakh, it now transpires, were not forgotten.

It's also known in Indian security circles that its military planners, especially the Army, had set a 2010 deadline to meet the proliferating security threat from Beijing. It was widely accepted at the time that the logistical, infrastructural and materiel inequalities would become too pronounced if this schedule slipped. Alarming it did, as was revealed by the frantic procurement of assorted ammunition, missiles, UAVs, varied ordnance and high-altitude kit, worth over Rs 20,000 crore, June 2020 onwards.

Those opposing a review or inquiry into the PLA's ingress also point to the



Army re-orienting its Mathura-based 1 Strike Corps — one of three such 'sword arm' formations — to convert it into a mountain strike corps for eventual deployment in Ladakh. This envisages two of its infantry divisions being trained in mountain warfare, in what analysts consider a tactical, rather than a wider strategic and holistic approach to higher defence management.

The Army also needs to abandon the Second World War concepts of attrition and manoeuvre warfare, familiar to generations of its commanders and ones they feel 'comfortable' planning for and executing like in the four wars with Pakistan. It requires desperately to shift focus to futuristic non-kinetic warfare technologies like robotics, artificial intel-

ligence, cyber and network-centric operations to match the PLA capabilities.

The proposed review would especially need to focus on the slip-ups leading to the Chinese incursions despite the three-fold surveillance grid: regular joint foot patrols by the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police supplemented by detailed imagery provided by UAVs and satellites. The federal government would do well to emulate the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) inquiry instituted by the BJP-led government of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on July 29, 1999, three days after the Kargil hostilities concluded, to evaluate the lapses that led to the Pakistan Army's intrusion and the subsequent hostilities in which over 500 Indian Army soldiers died.

Headed by strategic affairs expert K Subrahmanyam, the four-member KRC interacted with over 100 military and intelligence officers, bureaucrats and even journalists, for nearly five months, before submitting its report that was tabled in Parliament in February 2000 and also made public.

Some of its sensitive portions were redacted, but despite the expurgations, the report was instructive, revealing numerous intelligence collection failures, operational shortcomings and inter-service jointness, amongst other inadequacies. Thereafter, a Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani and four task forces led by seasoned officials further reviewed the KRC's recommendations, precipitating manifold changes in India's overall security apparatus. Obviously, these need to be reappraised following the PLA's ingress into Ladakh and should be made public.

Rural economy needs a New Deal for revival



YOGENDRA YADAV

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, SWARAJ INDIA

The current focus on government procurement of wheat and paddy creates perverse incentives for farmers. Instead, farmers need to be offered price support for a wide range of produce on the condition that they adopt crops that are suitable for local ecological conditions. Crop loan and crop insurance could be added to this mega scheme. Some of the state support must take the form of higher and more efficient subsidies.

A HISTORIC farmers' movement is a moment to unveil a vision for the future. Not just for farmers or agriculture, but for rural India, and indeed for the future of India.

This movement has already created history. It has firmly brought back the farmers to the national imagination. You can't pretend they don't exist. It has put the fear of vote, more effective than the fear of God, in the minds of the political class. You don't take *panga* with farmers. It has shut up market fundamentalists who whisper too-clever-by-half agri-reform recipes to the powers that be. No more corporate plugs masquerading as textbook economics pushing for "reform by stealth". At least for some time! It has succeeded in pushing the envelope to where years of academic and political debates on agriculture could not.

Yet, it will be a pity if that is all this movement achieves in terms of imagination. It will be tragic if the successful halting of the 'agri reform' onslaught becomes a pretext to perpetuate the status quo. It will be sad if this pushback to corporate agri-business turns into a push for trade unionism of the better off farmer. The imposition of the Modi government's farm laws must serve to draw attention to the multiple crises faced by the farmers, farming and agriculture. These laws are not the starting point of farmers' woes. Nor is their repeal the panacea they need. This great movement must take forward the idea of India that places farmers at the heart of our future.

Indian agriculture faces three intertwined crises. While the current focus is, rightly so, on the economic crisis, we cannot afford to forget the ecological crisis.



THE ROAD AHEAD: Rural India is the key to our national future. PTI

Both these crises together produce what the farmers experience as an existential crisis. Indian farmers need nothing short of a New Deal that addresses these three crises simultaneously. Ideas, policies and politics must come together to design this. The economic crisis is easy to describe. Although nearly half of our working population (58% of the rural households) is mainly engaged in agriculture, farming is not economically viable. Landholdings are small: 86% own less than 2 acres, based on the agriculture census of 2015-16. The average yield is low and uncertain. Prices are low too and kept systematically so. According to my calculations, this yields a meagre monthly income of less than Rs 8,000, including all sources of income. The number of agricultural wage labourers has kept swelling, though farm wages have been stagnant. No wonder the average monthly consumption is higher than the income. More than half of the

farm families are in debt.

The lazy economists' formula is to say reduce the population dependent on agriculture, except that they forget to mention the continent where this additional population should be transported; or to specify sectors of our economy waiting to offer millions of additional jobs, notwithstanding the overall state of joblessness. The challenge is to find a decent income for hard-working small farmers.

The ecological crisis is less easily noticed and is even more pressing. The Green Revolution has come to a dead end. Superstitious belief in chemical agriculture and overexploitation of water exposed us to the degradation of soil health and groundwater depletion on a frightening scale. Add to this the loss of biodiversity, shrinkage in seed variety, decline in nutria-crops like millets, loss in livestock economy and deforestation, and you begin to see why the

ecological crisis is not a hobby horse of fringe environmentalists.

And now think of the looming challenge of climate change. Soaring temperatures and uncertain monsoon is a recipe for disaster, especially for farmers dependent on rains. Incomes of these 'dryland' farmers are predicted to fall by as much as a quarter due to climate change. Ecologically sustainable agriculture is a material and pressing concern that we should have addressed yesterday.

Finally, there is the existential crisis that the farmers feel and react to, the story of farmer suicides, over 3 lakh in the past two decades. As agriculture shrinks, farmers experience a loss of dignity. As the self-respecting cultivator, the farmer is forced to become a labourer, and soon, a migrant labourer. Farmers do not want their next generation to take to farming.

The challenge and the opportunity of the farmers' movement today is not just to ward off the impending threat of the three laws or to secure some enduring economic gains, but to come up with a way forward on the economic, ecological and existential crises facing agriculture.

It requires, above all, an imaginative leap. Leaders, policymakers and thinkers must be able to stand up and say: India is not condemned to relive European history. Agriculture will follow an Indian path. Agriculture can and will provide a dignified livelihood to a substantial population. Rural India is a land of opportunities, and the key to our national future.

This resolve, an article of faith if you will, can open the path for new policy architecture. This will have to be led by the government and backed by a substantially bigger budget. Some of this state support must take the form of high-

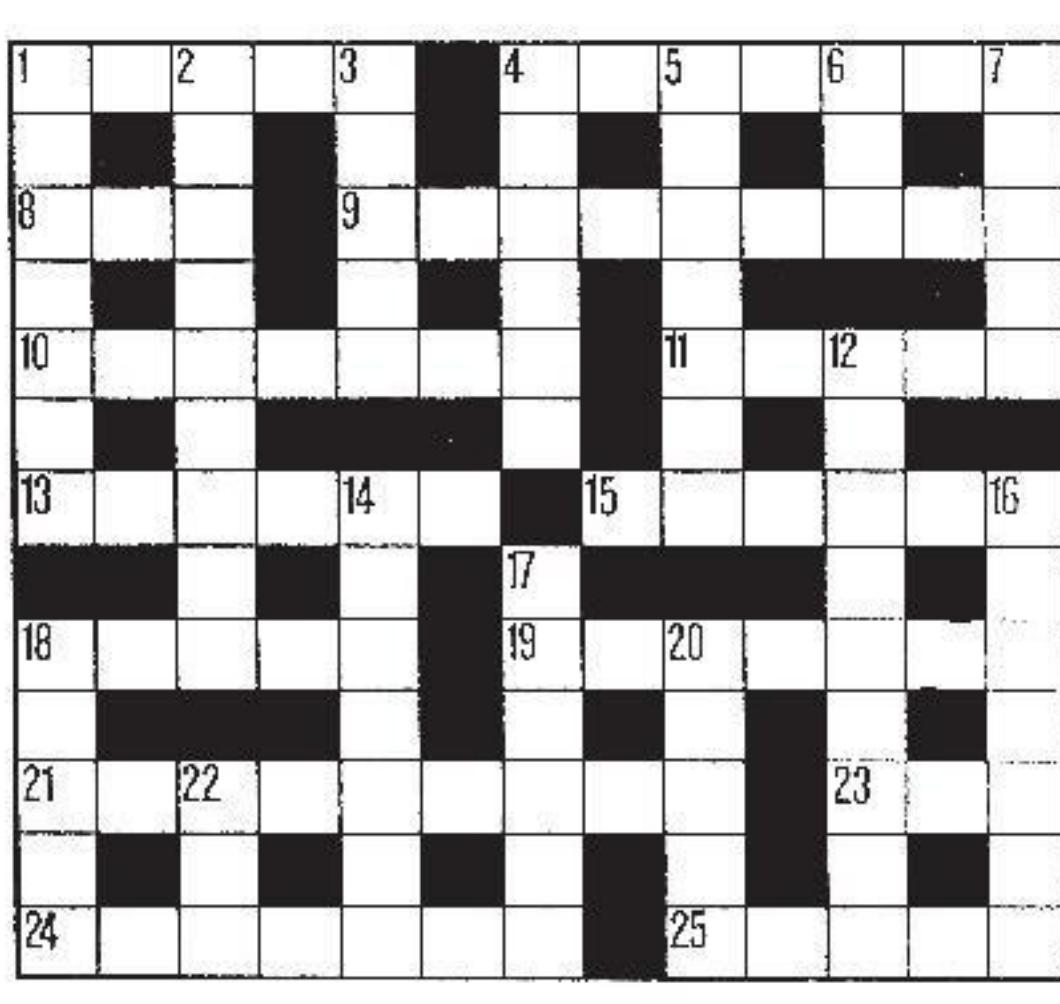
er and more efficient subsidies, as our net subsidy so far has been low, if not negative. Some of these resources must be spent on a truly universal and comprehensive crop insurance as well as debt relief and reconstruction. But much of state support must go towards building agricultural and rural infrastructure that facilitates private entrepreneurship, agro-processing, farmers' cooperatives, animal husbandry, forestry, and so on. Flourishing private initiative in agriculture needs more, not less, state support.

The design of this new architecture will be around a combination of income support and ecologically appropriate agriculture. The current focus on government procurement of wheat and paddy creates perverse incentives for farmers. Instead, farmers need price support for a wide range of produce on the condition that they adopt crops suitable for local ecological conditions. Crop loan and crop insurance could be added to this mega scheme. Some of the state support must take the form of higher and more efficient subsidies.

Will this cost a lot of money? Yes, at the current prices, we should be looking to spend an additional Rs 3-4 lakh crore, around 10 per cent of the Budget, for this New Deal for rural India. Can the country afford it? Should this be our national focus? Well, that is a question of political will. The real measure of the success of the current farmers' movement would be the extent to which it succeeds in creating this much-needed political will.

Views are personal

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Fair enough, 8 Swarm, 9 Unleash, 10 Theatre, 11 Cut up, 12 Thread, 14 Oyster, 17 Rider, 19 Chateau, 21 Bizarre, 22 Dated, 23 Downmarket.

Down: 2 Amateur, 3 Remit, 4 Nausea, 5 Unlucky, 6 Heart, 7 Shop around, 8 Set store by, 13 Aircrew, 15 Trestle, 16 Scream, 18 Dazed, 20 Adder.

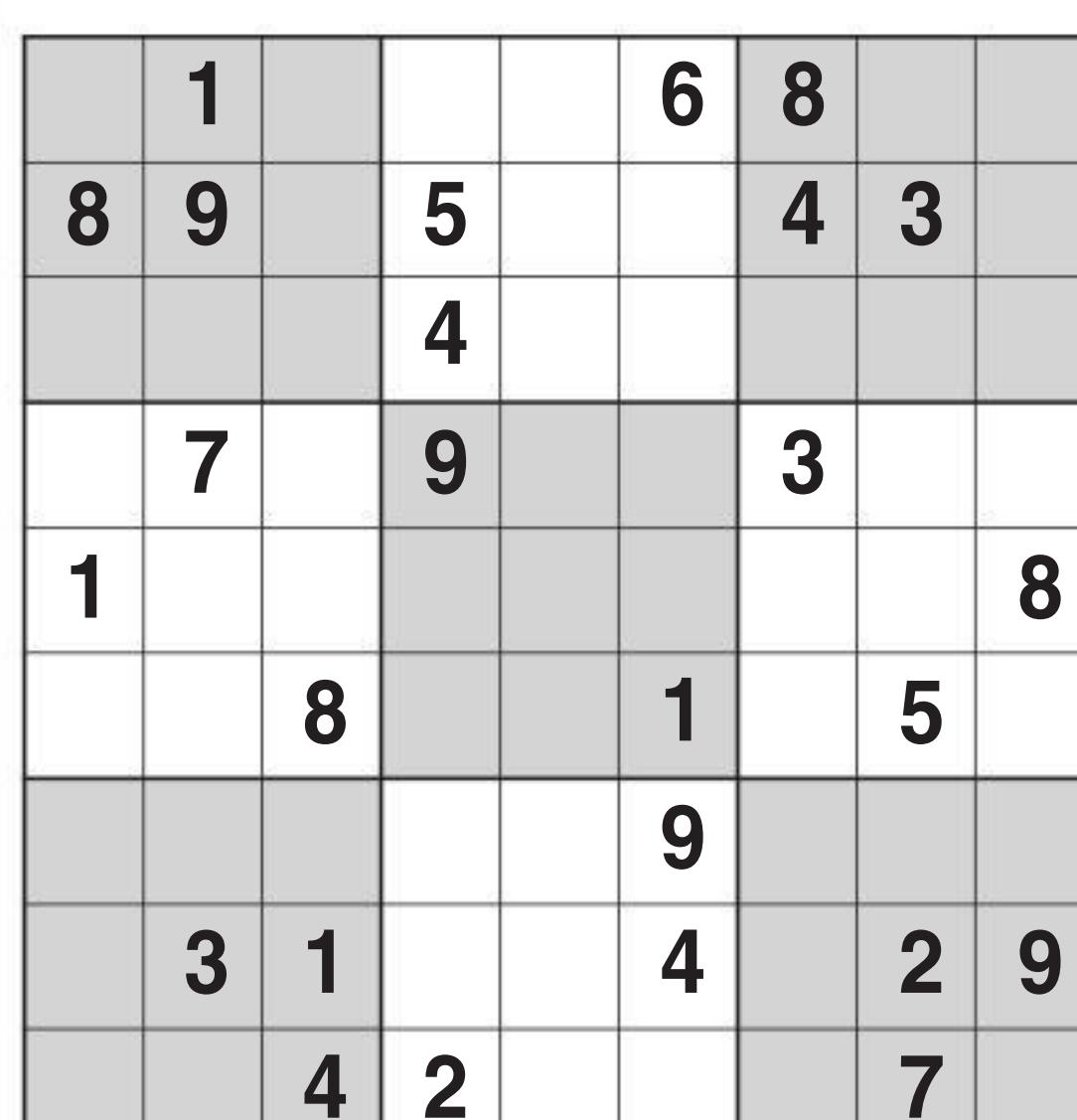
ACROSS

- 1 Swift (5)
- 4 Disable (7)
- 8 A long way (3)
- 9 Slight possibility (3,6)
- 10 A warning instance (7)
- 11 Outspoken (5)
- 13 Three-legged stand (6)
- 15 Strive intensely (6)
- 18 Utter confusion (5)
- 19 Boldly challenging (7)
- 21 It doesn't matter (5,4)
- 23 Gist (3)
- 24 Disposed to mercy (7)
- 25 Small-scale (5)

DOWN

- 1 To mirror (7)
- 2 For each person (3,6)
- 3 Languish (5)
- 4 Strongbox (6)
- 5 Restrain (7)
- 6 Play on words (3)
- 7 Set upright (5)
- 12 Confronting (2,7)
- 14 To remark (7)
- 16 In particular (7)
- 17 Eager devotee (6)
- 18 Artificial waterway (5)
- 20 Bored beyond endurance (3,2)
- 22 Forefront (3)

SU DO KU



HARD

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 18, 2021, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Magh Shaka	29
■ Phalguna Parvshite	7
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 6, up to 8.18 am	
■ Brahma Yoga up to 3.35 am	
■ Bharni Nakshatra up to 2.54 am	
■ Moon in Aries sign	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:14 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:58 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	27	10
New Delhi	28	11
Amritsar	22	10
Bathinda	26	11
Jalandhar	25	10
Ludhiana	25	11
Bhiwani	26	11
Hisar	27	10
Sirsia	26	12
Dharamsala	18	07
Manali	16	01
Shimla	18	05



Punjab Government Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

CHANDIGARH, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021 (MAGHA 2, 1942 SAKA)

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (B&R III Branch) Chandigarh NOTIFICATION

The 21st January, 2021

No. PWD-BR307/2/2021-1BR3 I/133756/2021.- Whereas preliminary notification No. 7/24/2017-1BR3/74/1-4 dated 27/04/2020 was issued under section 11 of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013" to whom it may concern. It is to be noted that Social Impact Assessment Study (SIA) of the proposed scheme namely New B.G. Rail Link, Nangal-Talwara carried out as per section 4 of the Act ibid. This notification was published in the Punjab Govt Gazette dated 05/05/2020 and in two daily newspapers The Tribune (English Version) dated 12/06/2020 and Rozana Ajit (Punjabi Version) dated 12/06/2020. The public notice regarding substance of this notification in local language (Punjabi) was got published vide Repat no.318 dated 11/06/2020 of Vill. Bhatoli, Repat No.318 dated 11/06/2020 of Vill. Bhavnour, Repat No. 318 dated 11/06/2020 of Vill. Sikri, Repat No.334 dated 11/06/2020 Vill Katoli, Repat No. 334 dated 11/06/2020 Vill Nangal Khanoura of Roznamcha Waqati in the above said patwar circles, Tehsil Mukerian Distt Hoshiarpur. This notification was also uploaded on the website on 20-5-2020.

The objection under section 15(1) have been received from the objector in this office. The notices were issued to the objectors and they were heard and objections have been rejected. Whereas Government of Punjab is satisfied that land specified below is needed by central Govt Railway Department as public expenses for the public purpose namely New B.G. Rail link Nangal Dam Talwara. As per SIA report that people are not likely to be displaced and there is no major direct-impact identified during SIA. In this connection there is no Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme required being linear project. The Govt of Punjab has notified Sub Divisional Magistrate-cum-Land Acquisition Collector, Mukerian for the said project. This declaration is made under the provision of section 19 of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013" And under the provision of section 21 (1) of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013. Public notices made to whom it may concern that the Govt intends to take possession of land and claim to compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement for all interest in such as alongwith their objections if any to the measurement made under section 20, be made to the land acquisition collector, railway, cum-SDM, Mukerian is hereby directed to take possession of the said land of villages, Bhatoli, Bhavnour, Sikri, Kartoli and Nangal Khanoura of Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur. The plan of the land may be inspected in the office of Land Acquisition Collector Railway Cum-SDM, Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur.

VILLAGE-WISE SPECIFICATION OF THE AREA OF LAND

Village list with Area Details.

Village Bhatoli 622

Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B. No.	Khasra	Type of land	Area	Re- marks
					K.M.S.	HECTS	
1	Hoshiarpur	Mukerian	Bhatoli H.B. 622	72 min	G.M./Khad/Sadak/Chahi/Barani/Abadi	2-19-0	0.11328
2				73 min	Kharkana	0-4-0	0.00768
3				74 min	Banjar Kadim	0-3-0	0.000576
4				75 min	Chahi/Abadi	1-12-0	0.06144
5				76/1 min	Barani	0-1-0	0.00192
6				78 min	Chahi	0-12-0	0.02304
7				79 min	Chahi/Abadi	2-11-0	0.09792
			Total	Kita 7		8-2-0	0.31104

Village Bhavnour 621

Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B. No.	Khasra	Type of land	Area	Re- marks
					K.M.S.	HECTS	
1	Hoshiarpur	Mukerian	Bhavnour H.B. 621	1139 min	G.M./Khad	0-5-0	0.0096

2				1140 min	Barani	0-16-0	0.03072
3				1145 min	Barani	0-9-0	0.01728
4				1146 min	Barani	0-8-0	0.01536
5				1150 min	Barani	0-13-0	0.02496
6				1151 min	Barani	0-9-0	0.01728
7				1152 min	Barani	0-1-0	0.00192
8				1158 min	Chahi	2-3-0	0.08256
9				1159 min	Chahi	0-3-0	0.00576
10				1182 min	Chahi	0-19-0	0.03648
11				1183 min	Chahi	0-8-0	0.01536
12				1184 min	Chahi	0-9-0	0.01728
13				1192 min	Chahi	1-12-0	0.06144
14				1194 min	Barani	1-1-0	0.04032
15				1205 min	Kharkana	1-15-0	0.0672
16				1206 min	G.M.Khad	0-5-0	0.0096
17				1213 min	Barani	1-12-0	0.06144
18				1215 min	Banjar Kadim	0-16-0	0.03072
19				1216 min	Barani	0-17-5	0.03369
20				1223 min	Barani	1-12-0	0.06144
21				3516/1 min	Barani	1-3-3	0.04479
22				1225 min			
23				1230 min	Barani	1-6-0	0.04992
24				1242 min	Barani	0-1-0	0.00192
25				1243 min	Barani	1-11-0	0.05952
26				1246 min	Barani	1-9-0	0.05568
27				1249 min	Barani	2-11-0	0.09792
28				1250 min	Barani	0-13-0	0.02496
29				1251 min	Chahi	1-15-0	0.0672
30				1265 min	Chahi	0-1-0	0.00192
31				1295 min	Chahi	0-0-4	0.00084
32				1298 min	Chahi	0-18-4	0.0354
33				1854 min	G.M.Khad/Barani	4-9-0	0.17088
34				2159 min	G.M.Khad	0-18-0	0.03456
35				2211 min	Chahi	2-0-4	0.07764
36				2213 min	Chahi	0-11-3	0.02175
37				2214 min	Chahi	0-2-4	0.00468
38				2215 min	Chahi	0-8-0	0.01536
39				2218 min	Chahi	0-10-0	0.0192
40				2222 min	Chahi	0-3-0	0.00576
41				2223 min	Chahi	0-2-0	0.00384
42				2224 min	Chahi	0-4-0	0.00768
43				2225 min	Chahi	0-9-3	0.01791
44				2226 min	Chahi	0-3-3	0.00639
45				2227 min	G.M.Khad	0-3-0	0.00576
46				2243 min	Barani	0-4-4	0.00852
47				2244 min	Chahi	2-3-0	0.08256
48				2245 min	G.M.Khad	0-3-0	0.00576
49				2250 min	Chahi	0-15-0	0.0288
50				2251 min	Chahi	0-1-0	0.00192
51				2268 min	Barani	0-4-0	0.00768
52				2269 min	Barani	0-9-0	0.01728
53				2270 min	Kharkana	0-4-0	0.00768
54				2272 min	Barani	0-16-0	0.03072
55				2275 min	Khartana	0-17-0	0.0336
56				2478 min	Chahi	0-5-0	0.0096
57				2479 min	G.M.Khad/Rasta	0-3-0	0.00576
58				2480 min	Chahi	0-19-4	0.03732
59				2481 min	Chahi	0-2-0	0.00384
60				2482 min	Chahi	0-0-4	0.00084
61				2483 min	Chahi	0-19-0	0.03648
62				2484 min	Chahi	0-8-0	0.01536
63				2486 min	Barani/Baranji	0-17-0	0.0336
64				2488 min	Chahi	1-7-0	0.05184
65				3614/1 min	Chahi	0-14-0	0.02803
66				3622/1 min	Chahi/Abadi	0-12-0	0.02304
67				3623/1 min	Barani	0-5-0	0.0096
68				2505 min	Chahi	1-1-0	0.04032
69				2506 min	Chahi	1-3-0	0.04416
70				2507 min	Barani	0-4-0	0.00768
71				2536 min	Chahi	0-5-0	0.00979
72				2630 min	G.M.Sarak	0-5-3	0.01023
73				Kita 72 Total		53-18-3	2.07039

Village Sikri 620

Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B. No.	Khasra	Type of land	Area	Re-

वार्ष-एन-ट्रिंगविउ

मरवारी उदयगिरि निमलाई संस्का. शारी पठाणा (कर्विगंगा साहिया) दिखे दिक्षा अकार्पालि
मेसन लाई 14000/- तुम्हें फिरवारा. पड़ी मृत्युनगदी टर्ड लाई 01
गैमट हेक्टो मिटरवर लाई ट्रिंगविउ निर्मित 22.02.2021 नम्बर 11.00 वज्ञ मरवारी
उदयगिरि निमलाई संस्का. शारी पठाणा दें दातव विच लाई गाई हो। उमीदवार गवेस्टर-
वर्गस+5 साल दा उत्तरा ट्रिंगविउ दी मिर्दी तंड पुरा बरदा हों। उमीदवार गवेगा/
उत्तरा अंडेस प्रूप आर्द दीर्घा सहै-उत्तरीक लापाना अडे मस्टीदिवर ले के ट्रिंगविउ
लाई गाज गेटा आपारी दी गिरजी दिव उत्तराला जा एंटरविउ रें बरन दे अपिवर
निमलाई अंडर पास राख्वैं रेंटों।

सरी/ - मैंबर सक्रृत, इंस्टीचिउट मेनेजर केमेटी,
उदयगिरि निमलाई संस्का. शारी पठाणा
संपर्क नं. 70093-79655

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF ADJUDICATING OFFICER IN THE HARYANA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, GURUGRAM**

The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram invites applications for preparing a panel for appointment of one or more Judicial Officer as Adjudicating Officer, as may be deemed necessary. The details of the post along with the eligibility criteria, educational qualification, experience etc. is given below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Eligibility, Knowledge and Experience
1	Adjudicating Officer	Judicial Officer who is or has been District Judge/Additional District Judge

The appointment in case of retired District Judge/Additional District Judge will be initially for a period of one year which may be extended on year to year basis till the age of 65 years.

The applicant who fulfills the eligibility criteria given above may send their applications in the prescribed Application Format as posted on the website of the Authority www.haryanareg.gov.in together with the self-attested copies of supporting documents, through Registered Post to reach the office of the **Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, New PWD Rest House, Civil Lines, Gurugram, Haryana by 5th March 2021**. The Authority reserves the right to reject any/all applications received for the post of Adjudicating Officer without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Admin & Estt.
For: Haryana Real Estate
Regulatory Authority, Gurugram.

Date: 15.02.2021
PRDH/216/11/2021/1822/314

हरियाणा सरकार
उद्योग एवं वाणिज्य विभाग, हरियाणा
कार्यालय : मुख्य नियंत्रक बॉयलर, हरियाणा

सभी बॉयलर मालिकों का सूचना किया जाता है कि उन बॉयलरों का पंजाकरण करवाना अनिवार्य है जिनकी पानी की क्षमता 25 लीटर से ज्यादा, ऐसा 1 किलोग्राम प्रति लीटर सेटीमीटर व तापमान 100 डिग्री होना और बॉयलर को पंजाकरण करवाना बॉयलर मालिक को ही जिम्मेवारी है और विना पंजीयन बॉयलर चलाना बॉयलर अधिकारी 1923 के अधीन दंडनाये हैं। किसी भी अप्रयत्न चलाने के लिए बॉयलर मालिक स्थानीय सिविलर होंगे।

बॉयलर खारीदते व स्थानित करते समय निम्नलिखित बातों का ध्यान रखें :

- बॉयलर को स्थापित करने के लिए केवल मालान्त्राप्राप्त स्थापितकर्ता (Boiler Erector) को ही चुना जाए।
- बॉयलर को Steam Pipeline के लिए भारतीय बॉयलर विनियम 1950 के अनुसार (IBR Material) का इस्तेलाल किया जाये व उक्त अनुसार संपूर्ण दस्तावेज (IBR Folder) सुनितन करने के समय लिये जाये और सभी दस्तावेज बॉयलर पंजीकरण के समय व बॉयलर चलाने से पहले विनाम ने जमा करवाये।
- बॉयलर विनाम की यह जिम्मेवारी है कि बॉयलर के बैनों से सम्पर्क व बॉयलर के संपूर्ण दस्तावेज (IBR Documents) बॉयलर क्रेता को दे दें हो और बॉयलर क्रेता के आवाह में विना पंजीकृत करवाये चलाना है जो कि नियमों के विरुद्ध है। किसी भी अनेकित व अंगीक चलाने के लिए बॉयलर मालिकों के साथ-साथ बॉयलर विनाम भी दुर्घटना के जिम्मेवार होंगे।
- बॉयलर हमेशा बॉयलर अपैशन इंजिनियर की उपस्थिति में ही रखेंगे। किसी भी अप्रयत्न चलाने के लिए बॉयलर मालिक ही जिम्मेवार हो।
- स्केल से बचने के लिए बॉयलर की नियमित तौर पर साराई करें व Soft Water का इस्तेमाल करें।
- बॉयलर को सुरक्षित रूप से चलाना बॉयलर मालिकों की ही जिम्मेवारी है।

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT, PUNJAB**
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(Consulting Services--- Firms Selections)

Hiring an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) for the work of "Providing Three Large Surface Water Supply Schemes to Villages of Districts Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur".

- Government of India has aimed to supply drinking water in adequate quantity and of assured quality to rural habitations under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with total outlay of Rs.60,000 crores. To take long term corrective measures in quality affected areas, Department of Water Supply and Sanitation is switching over to large surface water projects for meeting water requirement of beneficiaries. The Funds for constructing these projects shall be taken from JJM and NABARD, The Government of Punjab (GoP) intends to apply part of above proceeds for hiring the services of an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) to support DWSS in implementation of three Multi Village Water Supply Schemes in Punjab.
- The services include undertaking independent assessment of the specifications, quality assurance of construction activities, technical guidance to DWSS in ensuring quality, standards and providing timely recommendations and improvements to ensure that the schemes deliver intended performance objectives. The task of the IVA will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:
 - Assess the Operator's progress of works against the milestones under the contract.
 - Verify and check the quality of materials, electro and mechanical equipment being used.
 - Review and verify the Operator's quality assurances procedures in construction, environmental and social safeguards & safety at work.
 - Review achievement of Performance Standards upon commissioning.

- Short listing Criteria:**
 - Minimum Annual Average Turnover of Rs. 10 Cr. in last 3 years (i.e. FY 2017-18 to 2019-20).
 - Relevant experience in Similar Consultancy Assignment (completed/ Ongoing) amounting to Rs. 5 Cr. each, in last 5 years.
- Note: Ongoing consultancy assignment having completed minimum 80% (w.r.t consultancy fee receivables) with financial proof (from the client) shall be considered for evaluation.
- The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, general qualifications and number of key staff, and so forth).
- The Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with Quality-And Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) procedures. Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.
- The Consultancy duration shall be for 30 months from the date of signing of the consultancy agreement and can be further extended with the mutual consent of both the parties but on the same terms & conditions.
- Interested Consultants may download "ToR" placed at the Departmental Website: <https://dwss.punjab.gov.in>
- Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by courier and through e-mail) on or before 05.03.2021.

Note*: Any corrigendum(s) to the Request for Expression of Interest shall be published on the website only.

**OFFICE OF HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION**
Water Works Complex, Phase-2,
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar - 160055
Telefax: 0172-4330300, 4330317
Email: procurementdwsspb@gmail.com

GLOBE TROT

PET'S DAY OUT: A Filipino Catholic man carries his dog during a mass on Ash Wednesday in Manila, Philippines. REUTERS

Pakistan may not be off FATF grey list until June

ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 17

PM Imran Khan-led Pakistan is unlikely to exit the Financial Action Task Force's grey list until June, despite its efforts to garner support from the member nations ahead of the plenary meeting of the global terror financing and money laundering watchdog next week, according to a media report on Wednesday.

The FATF's Plenary and Working Group meetings, scheduled to be held from February 21 to 26 in Paris, is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status. Pakistan was placed on the FATF grey list in June 2018 and given a timeline to address global concerns by implementing 27 action points. The FATF, during its virtual plenary in October last year, concluded that Pakistan would continue in its grey list till February 2021 as it has failed to fulfil six key obligations of the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that include failure

**Unfulfilled obligations**

- In October last year, FATF ruled Pakistan would remain on grey list for failing to fulfil six key obligations
- A senior Pakistani official says the country is not expected to be off the FATF list before June this year

TWO YOUTHS BOOKED FOR BLASPHEMY

- Two Christian youths have been booked for blasphemy in Pakistan's Punjab province. They are yet to be arrested
- The police said a complainant accused them of making objectionable remarks during a discussion on religion

to take action against two of India's most wanted terrorists

least until June.

"If agreed, the FATF visit will help Pakistan come out of the grey list by June this year," a senior Pakistani official dealing with the matter was quoted as saying by the report.

The Foreign Office has been inviting diplomats of FATF members to brief them about the progress on implementing the 27-point action plan," the report said. — PTI

After acquittal, Trump tears into Rep senator

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 17

Donald Trump has launched a scathing personal attack on Mitch McConnell, calling him a "dour, sullen and unsmiling political hack," days after the top Republican Senator and former close ally voted to acquit the ex-US president in his second impeachment trial.

McConnell, who led the Senate for years, voted to acquit Trump in his impeachment trial last week. But the 78-year-old Senator from Kentucky then attacked Trump as "morally responsible" for the deadly US Capitol riot on January 6.

Trump and McConnell, the two most powerful men in the Republican Party, have been estranged in recent months after working closely during the former president's four years in office.

"Mitch is a dour, sullen and unsmiling political hack, and if Republican Senators are going to stay with him, they will not win again," Trump said on Tuesday against the Senate Minority Leader. — PTI

Britain plans reopening of economy within 5 months

LONDON, FEBRUARY 17

PM Boris Johnson is planning a staged exit from lockdown that would see the UK's battered economy returning to work over the next five months after leaping ahead of most of the world on vaccinating its people.

Johnson, who will set the path out of lockdown on February 22, said the staged exit plan would be cautious but irreversible. Schools are likely to reopen on March 8. Office workers will be told to



for some time. The hospitality sector may reopen in April. The Daily Mail newspaper

said leisure businesses may not return to 'broadly normal' until July. — Reuters

Coup protesters scoff at junta's assurances

NAYPYITAW, FEBRUARY 17

Hundreds of thousands of people marched in Myanmar on Wednesday, rejecting the army's assertion that the public supported its overthrow of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Opponents of the February 1 military coup are deeply sceptical of junta assurances, given at a news conference on Tuesday, that there would be a fair election and that it would hand over power, even as police filed an additional charge against Suu Kyi. — Reuters

Seeking unity, Italian PM promises reforms

ROME, FEBRUARY 17

PM Mario Draghi called on Italians on Wednesday to pull together to help rebuild the country following the Covid pandemic and promised his new government would introduce sweeping reforms to revitalise the battered economy.

In his maiden speech to parliament, he said his broad-based administration would throw all its efforts into defeating Covid while looking to leave a stronger, greener nation for future generations. His immediate priorities will be ensuring a



smooth Covid vaccination campaign and re-writing plans for how to spend more than 200 billion euros (\$240 billion) of European Union funds aimed at rebuilding the economy. — Reuters

BUSINESS

USD \$	Euro €	Pound £	JPY ¥	Yuan ₠	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$	BSE ₹	NSE ₹	Gold ₹	Silver ₹
₹72.74	₹87.79	₹100.88	₹0.69	₹11.27	₹57.35	₹56.35	₹54.75	₹9.39	51,703.83	15,208.90	₹47,230	₹69,600

Airtel to buy back 20% stake in Bharti Telemedia for ₹3,126 crore

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

Telecom firm Bharti Airtel on Wednesday said it will acquire 20% stake in its DTH arm Bharti Telemedia from an affiliate of Warburg Pincus for about Rs 3,126 crore.

The Warburg Pincus affiliate, Lion Meadow Investment, had acquired 20% equity stake in Bharti Telemedia for Rs 2,310 crore in 2018 after the announcement of deal in December 2017.

The transaction will be discharged primarily via issuance of about 3.64 crore equity shares of Airtel at a price of Rs 600 per share and up to Rs 1,037.8 crore in cash, Bharti Airtel said.

"In the coming five years we hope to have incremental production of Rs 2,44,200 crore, export worth Rs 1,95,360 crore, direct and indirect employment to about 40,000 people, and tax revenue of approximately Rs 17,000 crore to the country,"

Govt approves ₹12,000-cr mfg push for telecom equipment

Tribune News Service & PTI

Good, bad and ugly tracks

Why are wickets that help spinners from Day 1 called "bad"?

ROHIT MAHAJAN

IN 2002-03, India visited New Zealand for two Tests and seven ODIs. The tour was a disaster of rare proportions—India lost seven of the nine matches, getting thrashed 2-0 in the Test series and 5-2 in the ODI series, after New Zealand had sealed it 4-0.

India's batting stuttered badly, averaging only 13.37 runs per wicket. In 11 innings, India's top score was 219. There were 25 ducks out of 120 individual innings by India's batsmen. There were only three 50s and, incredible as it may appear in this mayhem, Virender Sehwag actually scored two hundreds!

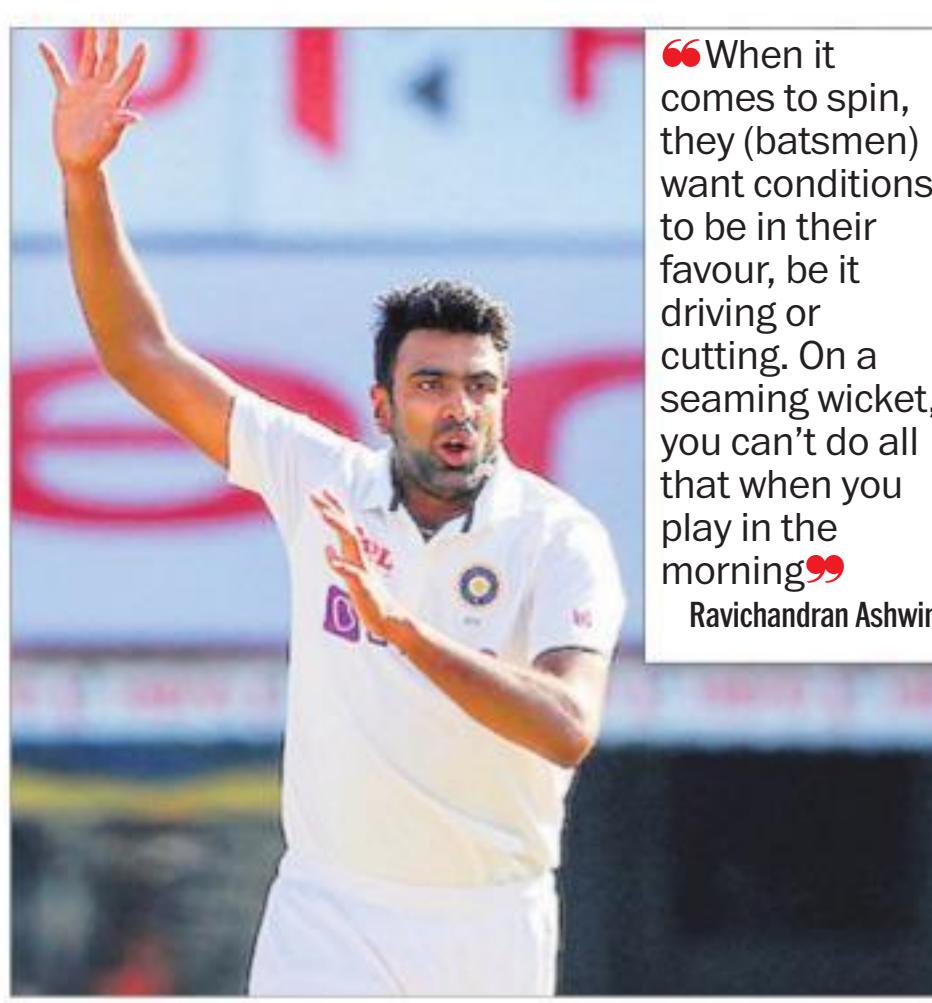
Greentops!

Just what went wrong for India? Well, they were provided greentops all through the series. Wisden Almanack reported that the New Zealand cricket authorities had instructed groundsmen to produce fast and bouncy tracks, but a wet summer added special venom to the wickets. "The inevitable result was a sequence of greentops..." Wisden reported.

Turners

Five years ago, South Africa toured India for four Tests, five ODIs and three T20Is. They lost the Test series 3-0—it could well have been 4-0, but after they had been bowled out for 214 and India had reached 80/0 in reply in Bengaluru, rain washed out the rest of the match. South Africa's scores in their seven completed innings were 184, 109, 214, 79, 185, 121 and 143. The reason for the paltry scores is obvious—India had opted for sharp turners in the series.

In the ODIs and T20Is, where flat wickets are a



Ravichandran Ashwin, who scored a 100 and took eight wickets in the second Chennai Test, is determined to drill into people's minds that it's OK to have wickets that help spinners from Day 1.

Green penalty

India in NZ, 2002-03
NZ won Test series 2-0

32.75

Best average by an Indian batsman in Tests, by
Rahul Dravid

2

Batsmen averaged over 25,
the rest averaged below 13
per innings

25

Os by Indian batsmen in 11
international innings

Turning the screw

SA in India, 2015-16
India won Test series 3-0

36.85

Best average by an SA batsman, by AB de
Villiers

2

Batsmen averaged 28 or
over, the rest averaged
below 20 per innings

9

Os by SA batsmen in 7 Test
innings

“When it comes to spin, they (batsmen) want conditions to be in their favour, be it driving or cutting. On a seaming wicket, you can't do all that when you play in the morning.” Ravichandran Ashwin

Ashwin's view

Ravichandran Ashwin, who scored a 100 and took eight wickets in the second Chennai Test, is determined to drill into people's minds—people such as former England captain Michael Vaughan—that it's OK to have wickets that help spinners from Day 1.

“When it comes to spin, they (batsmen) want conditions to be in their favour, be it driving or cutting,” Ashwin said, and then talked about the challenges of batting on a green wicket. “On a seaming wicket, you can't do all that when you play in the morning.”

“The same benchmarks must be set when you play spin on a challenging wicket. I would say that the challenges are far greater when the ball is moving at 140-150 kph off the deck compared to a ball spinning at 85-90 kph,” he added.

These seem valid points, worth pondering over.

Bad wickets?

Traditionally, wickets that help batsmen are called “good wickets” because the

BRIEFLY

MARGAO

ISL: Goa beat Odisha

FC Goa kept pace with their rivals for a top-four spot with a clinical 3-1 victory over Odisha FC in the Indian Super League.

NEW DELHI

India get Umesh boost

Seamer Umesh Yadav is set to reinforce India's pace attack in the final two Tests against England after being recalled. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

TENNIS
AUSTRALIAN OPEN
SONY SIX 5:30AM

ISL
CHENNAIYIN VS NORTHEAST
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

EUROPE LEAGUE
SOCIEDAD VS MAN UNITED 11:25PM
BENFICA V ARSENAL 1:30AM (FRIDAY)
SONY TEN

Du Plessis retires from Tests to focus on T20 World Cups

CAPE TOWN, FEBRUARY 17
Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has announced his retirement from Tests to make T20 International cricket his priority with successive World Cups in the next two years.

Middle-order batsman Du Plessis, 36, was the most senior member of the South Africa Test squad that lost the recent series 2-0 in Pakistan, and finishes with an average a shade over 40 after 69 matches, with 10 centuries and 21 fifties.

“My heart is clear and the time is right to walk into a new chapter,” du Plessis said.

“It has been an honour to play for my country in all the formats of the game, but the time has come for me to retire from test cricket.”

The next two years are T20 World Cup years. Because of this, my focus is shifting to this format and I want to play as much of it as possible around the world so that I can be the best player I can possibly be,” he said.

Du Plessis made his Test debut against Australia in Adelaide in 2012. He captained the side in 36 Tests but gave up the armband in February 2020 after a string of poor results. — Reuters

Kylian scores three as PSG outclass Barca

BARCELONA, FEBRUARY 17
Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe scored a stunning hat-trick as his side overcame the absence of Neymar to thrash Barcelona 4-1 away in their Champions League last-16 first leg on Tuesday to move within full view of the quarterfinals.

Lionel Messi had blasted Barca ahead with a penalty in the first half but Mbappe pulled the French champions level with a classy piece of control and finishing to complete a flowing team move also involving Marco Verratti and Layvin Kurzawa.

Mbappe, who had not scored in the Champions League knockouts for two years before Tuesday, smashed PSG into the lead in the 65th minute while Moise Kean took advantage of some

Majestic Mbappe



Barcelona's Gerard Pique tries to pull back Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe. REUTERS

woeful Barca marking to head in a third goal for the visitors in the 70th.

The insatiable Mbappe looked hungry for more though and, after being denied his third goal by Barca keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, he completed his tre-

ble in the 85th minute by curling the ball past the German into the top corner.

Meanwhile, Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane were on target to snap a three-match losing run as their side stunned RB Leipzig 2-0. — Reuters

Nadal's Slam record bid blown away by Tsitsipas



Greek tragedy

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas stretches to make a return against Rafa Nadal (inset). REUTERS

bounce and pace are consistent on them; the green tops that help fast bowlers are not looked at with censure, generally; but the wickets that help spinners right from Day 1 are called “underprepared wickets” or “bad wickets”—that’s just cricket’s accepted terminology. During that series against South Africa, talking about wickets used in Ranji Trophy, Ravindra Jadeja said: “The wicket on which we played three Ranji Trophy matches in Rajkot, they were worse than this one—isse bhi thoda kharab wicket tha.”

Kharab wicket—that’s a wicket that helps spinners from early in the match; this coinage only reflects the centrality of batsmen in cricket from early on, when cricket’s idiom was being constructed.

MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 17

Rafa Nadal's bid for a record 21st Grand Slam title came crashing to a halt at the Australian Open today as Stefanos Tsitsipas rose up to topple the Spaniard 3-6 2-6 7-6(4) 6-4 7-5 and reach the semifinals. World No. 2 Nadal had not lost a set coming into the evening clash at Rod Laver Arena and was locked on target for the last four at Melbourne Park after roaring to a two-set lead over the listless Greek.

The match turned on its

“Of course (I’m) sad. I lost a match in quarterfinals of an event that means a lot to me.” Rafa Nadal

head when Nadal wavered in a messy third set tiebreak, and a rejuvenated Tsitsipas rallied brilliantly to take the match into the decider.

Capturing Nadal's serve at 5-5 in the fifth, Tsitsipas saw two match points slip through his fingers on serve but he kept his head and fired a scintillating back-

hand winner down the line on the third to claim one of his finest career victories.

“Of course (I’m) sad. I lost a match in quarterfinals of an event that means a lot to me.” Nadal said.

“I tried my best in every single moment ... I think I stayed positive all the time during the match, fighting, and it was not enough. Sometimes it’s enough, today was not enough.”

Fifth seed Tsitsipas booked his second Australian Open semifinal and will meet

Russian juggernaut Daniil Medvedev for a place in the decider. Medvedev defeated compatriot Andrey Rublev 7-6 6-2.

“I have no words to describe what just happened on court. My tennis speaks out for itself. It’s an unbelievable feeling to be able to fight on such level, just to be able to leave my all out on court,” the 22-year-old Tsitsipas said.

Tsitsipas avenged his harrowing straight-set defeat by Nadal in the 2019 semifinals. — Reuters

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum

Tender No. 42-2020-21-ADEN-LDH Dt 06.02.2021 to be opened on 01.03.2021. Misc. Track Works i.c.w. Replacement of Turnouts & superstructure of Fan shaped 8 Nos Turnouts laid on PSC sleepers at various locations on SNL-JUC section & TRR (SH) 7.49KM, TRR (P) 2.39 Total 9.88KM in DDL & LDH yard in the jurisdiction of ADEN/LDH has been cancelled on administrative ground. No. 770W/169WA/C/FZR/corrigendum Date 17.02.2021. 354/2021 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Additional Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-

09307/09308 INDORE - CHANDIGARH - INDORE SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN (WEEKLY)

Train No.: 09307	STATIONS	Train No.: 09308	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	05:30	INDORE	15:10
05:05	---	CHANDIGARH	16:30

DAYS OF RUN: 09307 from Indore on every Thursday from 25.02.2021 till further advice & 09308 from Chandigarh on every Friday from 26.02.2021 till further advice.

STOPPAGE: Dewas, Ujjain Jn, Maksi, Shahapur, Pachor Road, Biyavra Rajgarh, Ruthiyai, Guna, Shivpuri, Gwalior Jn, Morena, Agra Cantt, Mathura Jn, Faridabad, Hazrat Nazimuddin, Meerut City, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri & Ambala Cant Jn Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

09241/09242 INDORE - UDHAMPUR - INDORE SUPERFAST SPECIAL EXPRES TRAIN (WEEKLY)

Train No.: 09241	STATIONS	Train No.: 09242	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	23:30	INDORE	11:15
22:50	---	UDHAMPUR	11:10

DAYS OF RUN: 09241 from Indore on every Monday from 22.02.2021 till further advice & 09242 from Udhampur on every Wednesday from 24.02.2021 till further advice.

STOPPAGE: Dewas, Ujjain Jn, Nagda Jn, Bhawani Mandi, Kota Jn, Sawai Madhopur, Mathura Jn, Delhi Safdarjung, Shakurbasti, Rohtak Jn, Jind Jn, Jakhali Jn, Dhuri Jn, Ludhiana Jn, Jalandhar Cant, Pathankot Cant & Jammu Tawi Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Note : The above Special Trains will have the reserved accommodation only.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 • Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download Railmadad app.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Your Convenience - Our Concern

Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Please join us on</p

Foreign Secy meets Russian diplomats, bats for strong ties

MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 17

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Wednesday had "fruitful and productive" meetings with top Russian diplomats on bilateral issues as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The two sides discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

Shringla, who arrived in Moscow on his first foreign visit this year, called on Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and conveyed greetings of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

"They discussed the wide-ranging Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia and ways to further strengthen it," the Indian Embassy said.

Speaking later at an event, Shringla said he had "fruitful and productive" exchange with the Russian leadership.

Earlier in the day, Shringla had "excellent discussion" with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov on bilateral issues, cooperation in mul-



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla (R) with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow on Wednesday. PTI

PRIVILEGED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

“We are on our way to see how we can add momentum to an already vibrant relationship, a very strong India-Russia special and privileged strategic partnership.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, FOREIGN SECRETARY

tilateral organisations as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest, the Indian mission said.

"Strong ties between India and Russia were further strengthened during the

Foreign Office Consultations where all aspects of the multi-faceted relationship were discussed, along with other areas of mutual interest," it said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) issued a statement that both sides held bilateral consultations in Moscow on issues which are on the agenda of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

It said the Indian delegation at the director general-level meeting briefed the Russian side on India's priorities during its UNSC tenure.

"Both sides agreed to work closely together on key issues on the UNSC agenda, in keeping with the special and privileged strategic partnership," the MEA said in a statement.

In a video message posted on Twitter, Shringla said: "I am very happy to be here in this beautiful city of Moscow. I am travelling in these Covid times giving an indication of the importance we attach to our relations with Russia".

"I am sure it will be a very-very fruitful and productive discussion," the foreign secretary said on his two-day official visit. He said he would also meet academics, media personnel and experience the Russian culture. — PTI

Adoption made easy, nod to amend Juvenile Justice Act

CABINET MEET DMs can now pass directives

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

The Union Cabinet today approved landmark amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, to allow district magistrates and additional district magistrates to pass adoption orders ending the existing challenge of legal hurdles to adoptions.

Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani flagged the amendments which seek to make childcare institutions and child welfare committee members and chiefs accountable, besides ensuring that district magistrates have the power to monitor child shelter homes to ensure child safety.

At present, childcare institutions need to state their intent to get permission from state governments to set up homes. But after new amendments, the permission would be subject to reports submitted by district magistrates who will do antecedent checks. Also, eligibility will be fixed for CWC members.

The most important amendment relates to the DM and ADM being allowed to issue adoption orders to fast track the process.

Former CEO of the Central Adoption Resource Agency Lt Col Deepak Kumar, who was involved in drafting the amendments, said: "At present, the family court, district court or a city civil court is competent to pass the adoption



Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad (R) and Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development Smriti Irani in New Delhi. PTI

TRADE PACT WITH MAURITIUS OKAYED

The government on Wednesday gave its nod to a proposal to sign a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement, which in a way could be termed as a free trade pact between India and Mauritius. The move aims at liberalising norms to boost two-way trade and commerce. It will ensure that the trading partners cut or eliminate duties on a host of products, besides liberalising norms to promote trade in goods and services. TNS

order under Section 61 of the Act. However, large scale dependency in the court is observed despite the Act mandating decision within two months. This causes duress to adoptive parents and the child."

New amendments further expand the definition of children in need of care and protection to include victims of trafficking and drug abuse.

More financial powers to Army Commanders

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday enhanced financial powers under 'capital procurement' for senior commanders of the armed forces.

Powers will be for Army Commander-level officers under what is called Other Capital Procurement Procedure.

According to the approval, financial powers up to Rs 100 crore has been delegated to Army Commander (and equivalent in Navy and IAF) and regional Commanders of Indian Coast Guard.

Powers up to Rs 200 crore has been delegated to Deputy Chief of Army Staff MGS (Master General Sustenance), COM (Chief of Material), AOM (Air Officer Maintenance), DCIDS (Deputy Chief Integrated Defence Staff) and ADG ICG (Additional Director General Indian Coast Guard).

This delegation of powers will be utilised for items of 'Capital' nature such as overhauls, refits, upgrades etc. It will enhance the utility of existing assets and will facilitate faster processing and implementation of projects for modernisation of armed forces.

amendment relates to the DM and ADM being allowed to issue adoption orders to fast track the process.

Former CEO of the Central Adoption Resource Agency Lt Col Deepak Kumar, who was involved in drafting the amendments, said: "At present, the family court, district court or a city civil court is competent to pass the adoption

order under Section 61 of the Act. However, large scale dependency in the court is observed despite the Act mandating decision within two months. This causes duress to adoptive parents and the child."

New amendments further expand the definition of children in need of care and protection to include victims of trafficking and drug abuse.

Centre: U'khand disaster not due to Char Dham project

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

"You file a response to it," the Bench told the Attorney General and posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

The top court had on January 18 asked the parties to file their objections, if any, on the report filed by the high-powered committee.

The Centre wanted the court to accept the majority report of 21-members of the high-powered committee submitted on December 31 last year recommending the road to be developed to be two-lane with paved shoulders (10 m wide carriageway) considering the strategic requirement and snow removal needs.

Attorney General KK Venugopal told a Bench, headed Justice RF Nariman, that the Centre would like to respond to a letter written by Ravi Chopra, chairman of a high-powered committee, in which several 'allegations' had been made with regard to broadening of road and the recent disaster in Uttarakhand.

The strategic 900-km Rs 12,000-crore Char Dham highway project aims to provide under the earlier circular dated March 23, 2018, issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, notwithstanding the security needs of the country and the need of the defence forces to resist external aggression, if any, as the Indo-China border.

It said three members, including chairman Ravi Chopra (minority report), were still impressing upon the width of 5.5 m as provided under the earlier circular dated March 23, 2018, issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, notwithstanding the security needs of the country and the need of the defence forces to resist external aggression, if any, as the Indo-China border.

It said the majority report had taken a holistic view of the matter keeping in mind the social, economic and strategic needs of the country and protecting the environment.

Rescue ops hampered by waterlogging in Tapovan tunnel

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JOSHIMATH, FEBRUARY 17

Rescuers pumped out water accumulated in the NTPC's flood-ravaged Tapovan tunnel on Wednesday as they continued efforts on the 11th day to find survivors of the glacial disaster.

Sludge clearing at the tunnel was temporarily suspended since Tuesday evening due to seepage of water which was flushed out with the help of submersible pumps provided by the NTPC, NDRF Com-

mandant PK Tiwari said. "Removal of wet debris with JCBs is difficult. So it was decided to resume muck clearing only after flushing out water accumulated inside the intake adit tunnel," he said.

Search teams today failed to retrieve even a single body from the two rescue sites.

A senior official, who is supervising the rescue and search operations after the floods in Dhauliganga and Rishiganga, said as the 180-m main tunnel was now completely waterlogged,

efforts were on to clear it by using high-power pumps. "We have sent a team to Gaurikund as we have received information that many stray dogs are wandering in the areas," he said.

A team of the ITBP and DRDO has reached the Murenda area near Raini village, where a natural lake has formed after the floods. The ITBP team surveyed the area and assessed the threat level in the lake formed due to the flashfloods.

(With inputs from PTI)



Rescuers continue to search for missing persons in Tapovan area of Chamoli district on Wednesday. PTI

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind to be party to plea against 'love jihad' laws

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, an organisation espousing Islamic causes in India, to become a party to petitions challenging laws passed by some BJP-ruled states to check unlawful religious conversion for inter-faith marriages.

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind alleged that a large number of Muslims were being harassed under these laws across India.

A Bench headed by Chief

Justice of India SA Bobde also allowed governments of Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to be made parties to the petitions challenging the controversial laws after it was pointed out that the two states have laws similar to those in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand which were already under challenge.

The top court had on January 6 refused to stay provisions of an Uttar Pradesh Ordinance and an Uttarakhand law aimed at checking unlawful religious conversion for inter-faith marriages.

It had issued notice to the

two states asking them to respond to petitions filed by Vishal Thakre and others and NGO Citizens for Justice and Peace challenging the controversial UP Ordinance and the Uttarakhand law.

Later, it had refused to transfer to itself the petitions pending in the Allahabad High Court.

The Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Virudh Dharm Sampravartan Pratishedh Adhyadheesh, 2020 (Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020) was promulgated in November last.

Sharma represented Amethi after Rajiv Gandhi's death in 1991. After 1998, he was shifted to Rae Bareli, where he remained MP till 2004 before vacating the seat for Sonia Gandhi. — TNS

Congress loyalist Satish Sharma passes away

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

Former Lok Sabha MP from Amethi and Rae Bareli, and a long-time Gandhi family loyalist Capt Satish Sharma passed away in Goa after a brief illness.

Sharma, who owed his rise in politics, to proximity to late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was a Lok Sabha MP thrice and a Rajya Sabha MP thrice. He was dropped from Rajya Sabha only in 2016 after his term ended.

Sharma represented Amethi after Rajiv Gandhi's death in 1991. After 1998, he was shifted to Rae Bareli, where he remained MP till 2004 before vacating the seat for Sonia Gandhi. — TNS

Modi on Wednesday assured industry leaders at the NASSCOM technology and leadership forum (NTLF).

The PM emphasised that young entrepreneurs should have the freedom to leverage the opportunities. The government has full faith in the start-ups and innovators, said the PM. Steps like self-certification, use of IT solutions in governance and data democratisation through Digital India have taken the process forward, he said.

Modi spoke to the NTLF on the steps taken like the National Communication Policy, besides the policy to make India a global software product hub coupled with the Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines which were issued during Covid period.

The PM praised the resilience of the industry during the Covid period. "When the chips were down, your code kept things running," he said. — TNS

Mandate for liberal policies, says Capt



Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh with farm stir supporters after the poll results, at Matka Chowk in Chandigarh on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

REPEAL AGRI LAWS, CAPT URGES CENTRE

“I again appeal to the Centre not to take farm protest lightly and repeal the contentious laws

Capt Amarinder Singh

dence the people have repented in us. I am thankful to the Almighty that I have been able to sustain with the support of my colleagues and Punjabis within and outside the state. As for better performance, parliamentary and civic elections are driv-

en by different issues. The LS polls are centered on national issues, while in the municipal elections, local issues are more relevant. The work that my government and the Congress have done on the ground is there for all to see.

PM: Working to free tech industry from regulations

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

The government is working to free the technology industry from unnecessary regulations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday assured industry leaders at the NASSCOM technology and leadership forum (NTLF).

The PM emphasised that young entrepreneurs should have the freedom to leverage the opportunities. The government has full faith in the start-ups and innovators, said the PM. Steps like self-certification, use of IT solutions in governance and data democratisation through Digital India have taken the process

USED BOILERS FOR SALE

Vardhman, an integrated textile group offers for sale used 8 & 12 TPH Thermax water tube Boilers in good working condition: Fuel- Rice husk/coal. Location: Baddi (H.P) +91-8146652396 usedtextilemachinery4sale@vardhman.com

Speaks to Sultan of Oman

forward, he said.

Modi spoke to the NTLF on the steps taken like the National Communication Policy, besides the policy to make India a global software product hub coupled with the Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines which were issued during Covid period.

The PM praised the resilience of the industry during the Covid period. "When the chips were down, your code kept things running," he said. — TNS