

JAPAN, US RAISE CONCERN OVER
CHINA'S 'AGGRESSION' WORLD

FUEL SALES RETURN TO
PRE-COVID LEVELS BUSINESS

MODI, FINNISH PM HOLD
VIRTUAL SUMMIT BACK PAGE



WEDNESDAY | 17 MARCH 2021

Every Step For Precaution Will Reduce Corona Infection



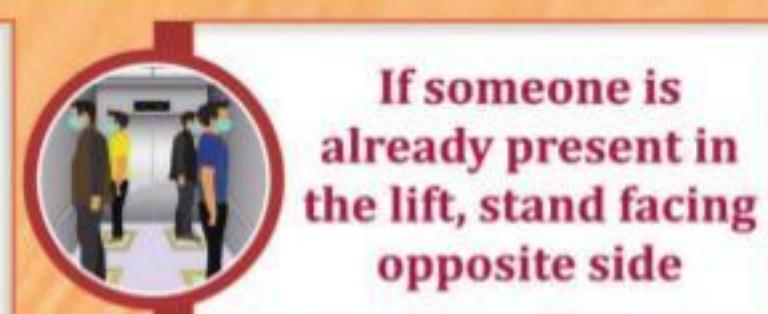
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IN BRIEF

ED attaches assets of Shinde's daughter

MUMBAI: The ED has attached ₹35.48-crore assets of ex-CM Sushil Kumar Shinde's daughter in connection with Mack Star case. — IANS

Guj riots: SC to hear plea against Modi

NEW DELHI: The SC will hear on April 13 Zakia Jafri's plea, challenging the clean chit to Modi in the 2002 riots. — TNS

House panel endorses one poll

Says will reduce burden on exchequer | Report tabled in Parliament

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16
The government's "one nation, one election" plan today got a boost with the parliamentary standing committee on law and justice endorsing it, besides batting for common electoral rolls for the Lok Sabha, state and local body elections.

"Holding simultaneous elections will reduce the burden on exchequer, expenditure of political parties and ensure that human resources are utilised optimally. It will reduce voters' apathy towards frequent elections and rather enthuse them, which will ultimately enhance participation in the electoral process," the panel said, adding that common electoral rolls were necessary to make simultaneous elec-

COMMITTEE BATS FOR COMMON POLL ROLLS

SEE IF LOKPAL ACT CAN BE REVISITED, CENTRE TOLD

■ The introduction of common electoral rolls will purify the voters' lists, check malpractices and unnecessary duplication. Panel report

BACK PAGE



tions a reality.
"All-out efforts should be made for the implementation of the common electoral rolls," said the panel in its report tabled in both Houses on Tuesday.

Headed by BJP's Bhupendra Yadav, the panel argued that elections around the year — whether for local bodies, state Assemblies or the Lok Sabha — put a strain on the state machinery and cre-

ated hurdles in governance.

"Our country remains in election mode throughout the year. We are of the view that the idea of 'one nation, one election' is not new to our country as the first three General Elections (1952, 1957 and 1962) were held simultaneously," said the panel.

Holding simultaneous elections would entail amendment to the Constitution to have fixed terms for local bodies, legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

Amendments would also be required for common electoral rolls. "But common rolls will be good for the democratic health of our country as these will lessen the burden on exchequer. Wider consultation with all political parties should be held to reach a consensus," the report said.

RS nod to Bill on abortion till 24 wks in special cases

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill to raise the upper limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 for minors and victims of rape and incest.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment)

Law after minor UT girl delivered baby in 2017

Bill, 2020, was passed by voice vote after rejecting a resolution moved by Congress MP Partap Singh Bajwa to refer the Bill to a Parliament committee. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill in March last year.

Under the law, doctors will face up to one year in prison and fine or both if they disclose

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Bank sale not to hit jobs, FM allays fears

Union leaders warn of farmer-like protest

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

STAKEHOLDERS NOT CONSULTED: KHARGE

■ The govt has decided to privatise banks without consulting stakeholders.

Mallikarjun Kharge, CONG LEADER

CABINET NOD TO DFI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a Bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI) to raise long-term capital to fund infrastructure development.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Pb surpasses Kerala in daily cases; next only to M'rashtra

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16
Ahead of the Covid-19 review meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and state chief ministers tomorrow, India recorded 24,492 new infections, witnessing more than 20,000 cases in 24 hours for the sixth straight day.

Government sources said Maharashtra, as the lead contributor to the daily cases and active infection burden, was staring at a second wave of infections unless urgent containment measures were taken. Punjab today surpassed Kerala as the second highest

Govt orders another 10 cr doses of Covishield

EXPORTING VAX NOT AT COST OF CITIZENS: GOVT

Vaccines are not being sent overseas at the cost of Indians and a healthy balance is being maintained, said the Health Minister.

VISA TO INDIANS ONLY AFTER CHINESE JAB: BEIJING

contributor to 24-hour cases after Maharashtra. These three states with Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu con-

tinued to report a surge in the daily new cases and account for 79.73% of new cases.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

69 Thapar varsity students infected in past four days

PATIALA, MARCH 16

Thirty-two more students of the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology tested Covid-positive on Tuesday, while reports of hundreds others were awaited.

Freshers' event probable trigger

This comes amid claims by the Thapar administration of having advised strict compliance with norms during a freshers' event. In all, 69 students of the institute have tested Covid-positive in four days. INSIDE

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PM's Principal Adviser resigns

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16
Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Principal Adviser to PM Narendra Modi, has resigned from his position citing personal reasons.

Former Cabinet Secretary Sinha, a retired IAS officer (1977 batch) of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, was appointed officer on special duty in the PMO in August 2019 after then Principal Secretary to the PM Nripendra Mishra requested to be relieved of his charge.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

9 Akali MLAs booked for 'heckling' Hry CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16
The Chandigarh Police today booked nine Punjab Akali MLAs and several others for their alleged attempt to heckle Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar.

The legislators had confronted Khattar on the premises of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha on March 10, seeking a resolution by his government in favour of repeal of the three farm laws.

Facing heat, BJP nominee quits RS

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Swapan Dasgupta, BJP candidate for the Tarakeswar Assembly constituency in West Bengal, resigned from the Rajya Sabha today.

Dasgupta tweeted, "I have resigned from the Rajya Sabha today to commit myself totally to the fight for a better Bengal. I hope to file my nomination as the BJP candidate for the Tarakeswar Assembly seat in the next few days."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

HP stares at 'famine-like situation'

SHIMLA, MARCH 16

Growing concern over Himachal facing an acute water scarcity once again echoed in the Vidhan Sabha with Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Minister Mahender Singh warning the situation could be "alarming" in the summer due to scant rain and snow. The minister was replying to a cut motion. In 2018, the capital faced a

Minister: Mere 3-4 ft of snow at Rohtang this time



major water crisis and was labelled India's Cape Town. The situation was so grave that some localities did not receive supply for 10 days and severe water rationing was imposed.

He warned the House against threat of a major "famine-like situation" in the summer. "The situation is going to be alarming, as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

NEW DELHI 'MOST POLLUTED' CAPITAL

Delhi has been ranked the most polluted capital city globally, according to IQAir report

NINE OF HARYANA AMONG WORLD'S 30 WORST CITIES
India has 22 of world's 30 most polluted cities. Nine of these are in Haryana — Faridabad, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad, Bawali, Hwari, Gurugram, Yamunanagar, Rohtak and Dharuhera — pmi

paper.tribuneindia.com

Portable jammers to keep check on prisoners

Jails Dept plans to instal devices in barracks, cells lodging notorious criminals, habitual offenders

JUPINDERJIT SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16
After shifting a number of gangsters to 'no-phone network' zones in a Bathinda prison, the Punjab Jails Department is now experimenting with the installation of portable mobile phone jammers in barracks where notorious inmates are lodged.

The Jails Department has reached an understanding with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for this unique process to check cellphone usage. The BSNL, which is the national telephone service provider, has



PILOT PROJECT IN PATIALA PRISON

As a pilot project, these jammers are being installed in the Patiala Central Jail. If successful, we will instal these in all jails.
PK Sinha, ADGP (Prisons)

<< The central jail in Patiala. FILE

produced small jammers that can block cellphone signals in a given area.

The large phone jammers

installed earlier inside the jails had failed due to multiple reasons. Their technology needed regular upgrade

as jails had presently 2G jammers while phone network was 4G now. The jammers were expensive too.

They did not cover the entire jail premises but interfered with the network of civilians living in the vicinity.

The small jammers will be used for a specific area like a barrack or a cell where a notorious criminal or an inmate listed as a habitual offender for the use of phones was lodged.

Initially, in a pilot project, these jammers are being installed in the Patiala Central Jail, said ADGP (Prisons) PK Sinha. "We have asked the BSNL to showcase the efficacy of the jammers. If successful, we will instal these in all jails."

The Jails Department is struggling to check the menace of mobile phone usage for long now. As a number of gangsters were using phones besides causing other troubles for the jail staff, the department has now shifted them to one prison.

"Ninety per cent of prisoners do not cause much trouble but equal number of jail staff is on toes to manage the remaining 10 per cent inmates, which includes gangsters, that is why we shifted them to 'dead' or 'no-phone network' zones in the Bathinda jail," Sinha said.

HC rejects plea against Kishor's appointment

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16

Dismissing a petition challenging Prashant Kishor's appointment as Principal Adviser to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted it is for the public to make a judgement during the next elections if his appointment is uncalled for and burdensome on the coffers.

"In case the appointment, as argued by petitioners, is only to accommodate some person, which will put burden on exchequer, it is for the public to take its call during the next elections," a Division Bench of Justices Jaswant Singh and Sant Parkash said.

The Bench made it clear that the appointment of the advisers was the Chief Minister's prerogative. The Bench also drew a distinction between a post and an office.

"Since an Adviser to the Chief Minister is not a post, but an office, which is not regulated by any statutory rules, the argument that an advertisement should be issued is completely misplaced. The appointment in question is not a civil appointment, but for the purposes of perks and rank only and, thus, Article 16(1) of the Constitution is not attracted," the Bench asserted.

The Bench added the petitioners failed to point out violation of any Constitutional or statutory provision, which disentitled Kishore to be appointed as the Principal Adviser. Not finding merit in the petition, the Bench ordered it to be dismissed.



Prashant Kishor

CM HAS AUTHORITY TO CHOOSE ADVISER

The Chief Minister, being an elected representative, has manifold Constitutional duties to discharge.... The CM has complete authority to choose his advisers for the obligation's fulfillment.

A Division Bench

Punjab Advocate-General Atul Nanda and Additional Advocate-General Rameez Hakeem, on the other hand, had submitted that Article 16(1) provided for equal opportunity in the matter of appointment. But a stranger to the process could not make it a ground. Only a person falling in the same class/category of employment could take recourse to it.

The Bench added the petitioners failed to point out violation of any Constitutional or statutory provision, which disentitled Kishore to be appointed as the Principal Adviser. Not finding merit in the petition, the Bench ordered it to be dismissed.

HC stays PCS recruitment process

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16

Just about three months after the issuance of an advertisement for conducting the Punjab State Civil Services Combined Competitive Examination-2020, the Punjab and Haryana High Court today stayed further process in pursuance to the advertisement.

The direction came on a petition filed by Vivek Joshi against the Punjab Public Service Commission for directing the respondents to amend advertisement dated December 12, 2020. Joshi pleaded that the respondent-commission issued an advertisement inviting applications for filling 75 posts.

It was further provided that reservation of the posts would be in accordance with Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016. Accordingly four per cent seats were required to be reserved. Describing himself as "a disabled person and a practicing lawyer at Jalandhar", the petitioner added he submitted a representation in this regard on December 29, 2020.

"... the respondent-commission is directed to consider the case of the petitioner till the representation is decided, further process in pursuance to the advertisement shall remain stayed," the court said.

TNS

Sukhbir tests positive, Akalis cancel rallies till March 31

Party flays case against MLAs



SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16
The SAD today condemned the registration of case against its nine MLAs, saying the action smacked of the Emergency imposed by former PM Indira Gandhi.

Former minister Daljit Singh Cheema said it was condemnable that Sections like 323, which indicated SAD legislators had resorted to violence and caused hurt during their peaceful demonstration against Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar were thrust against the legislative party members. — TNS

Within days of launching its campaign for the next year's Assembly elections, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) today cancelled all rallies scheduled for this month after its president Sukhbir Singh Badal tested positive for Covid-19.

Apparently, Badal caught virus during some of the rallies that he had addressed in the past few days. As the state is witnessing a surge in the number of Covid-19 cases, the political rallies were being considered a cause for spread of the disease.

Party spokesperson Daljit Singh Cheema said the rallies had been cancelled till March 31, including Wednes-

day's rally in Mukerian, as a precautionary measure.

Sukhbir Badal had today evening announced on a social media site he had tested positive for Covid-19. He asked all those, who had come in contact with him, to take necessary precautions. — TNS

Singhu violence accused granted bail

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, MARCH 16

Ranjit Singh (22) from Kajampur village in Nawan-shahr, one of the youth accused of attacking the police at the Singhu border on January 29, was granted bail today.

His brother Pardeep Singh said the family was relieved after they received

alleged Yadav.

LoP Cheema alleged the then government hatched a conspiracy to tarnish the party's image. "CM Capt Amarinder Singh must accelerate investigations in all sacrilegious cases to punish the guilty" said Cheema.

"It was a politically motivated case as the police had no evidence against me,"

the news regarding bail to Ranjit.

"After the incident, I had met my brother four times and we all were praying for him. We will complete formalities regarding the bail at the earliest. I am looking forward to the moment when he will be released. We waited for it for so long," Pardeep Singh said.

Video grabs of Ranjit being beaten up with lathis had gone viral on the Internet. Since then, the family had been denying the accusations of Ranjit attacking the police. The family had said Ranjit was a simple boy and couldn't beat anyone.

Farmer leaders have denied Ranjit's involvement in the violence. They claim Ranjit didn't assault anyone that day.

TNS

community, the life-size statues depicting "giddha" and "bhangra" were shifted. Now, these are placed in the parking bay of the PHTPB, situated opposite the Gobindgarh fort.

People associated with the tourism industry said these must be judiciously used to draw the attention of the tourists at the earliest. Post Covid-19, the industry is striving to regain its lost ground and each step would contribute in this direction.

A few Sikh youth had even vandalised the statues and clashed with the police on duty on January 15, 2020. It had prompted the CM to take swift decision to remove the statues from the place. PHTPB project incharge AR Mishra said these statues would be installed at a place where tourist footfall was high.

in 2016. Sikh bodies had objected to the location of the statues on the way to the Golden Temple as these prompted youngsters to take selfies and vitiated the minds of devotees going to pay obeisance at the holiest Sikh shrine".

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In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishen Reddy said under the 1974 Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious

Shrines' between India and Pakistan, there are four occasions every year on which visit of Sikh jathas to Pakistan are held — Baisakhi, Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan Dev, death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Reddy said the proposed jatha to Nankana Sahib in

Pakistan on February 18 was not covered under the 1974 protocol. Further, as per information available, no such jatha had gone to Pakistan in the past on such occasion.

"Keeping in view the increasing number of Covid cases in Pakistan, threat to safety and security of the large number of Indian citizens during the visit and the ongoing suspension of cross-border traffic due to the pandemic, permission was not accorded to the jatha," the minister said.

Uprooted from Golden Temple, statues gather dust

NEERAJ BAGGA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MARCH 16

Bronze statues of folk dancers uprooted from the vicinity of the Golden Temple continue to gather dust at the office of the Punjab Heritage Tourism Promotion Board (PHTPB).

Undue delay in their relocation irks people associated with the tourism industry.

The tourism department is looking for a suitable space for reinstalling the statues depicting folk dances "giddha" and "bhangra". Prospective places could be Sri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport, local railway station and Attari-



Folk dancers' statues at the Punjab Heritage Tourism Promotion Board's office. Hunt is on to find a 'suitable site' for these.

Wagah joint check post.

Over a year ago on the instructions of CM Capt Amarinder Singh, the Cultural Affairs Department had

shifted statues of folk dancers from Heritage Street in the vicinity of the Golden Temple. Taking into account the religious sentiments of the Sikh

Permission for Nankana Sahib visit denied due to Covid: MHA

Safety and security threat another reason

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

The government today officially put on record saying it did not grant permission to a Sikh jatha to visit Nankana Sahib in February this year in view of increasing number of Covid-19 cases in Pakistan and threat to safety and security of a large number of Indian citizens in that country.

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31 more students test +ve at Thapar varsity

Weeklong events for freshers to blame | Tally climbs to 69 in 4 days | 6 hostels now micro-containment zones

KARAM PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

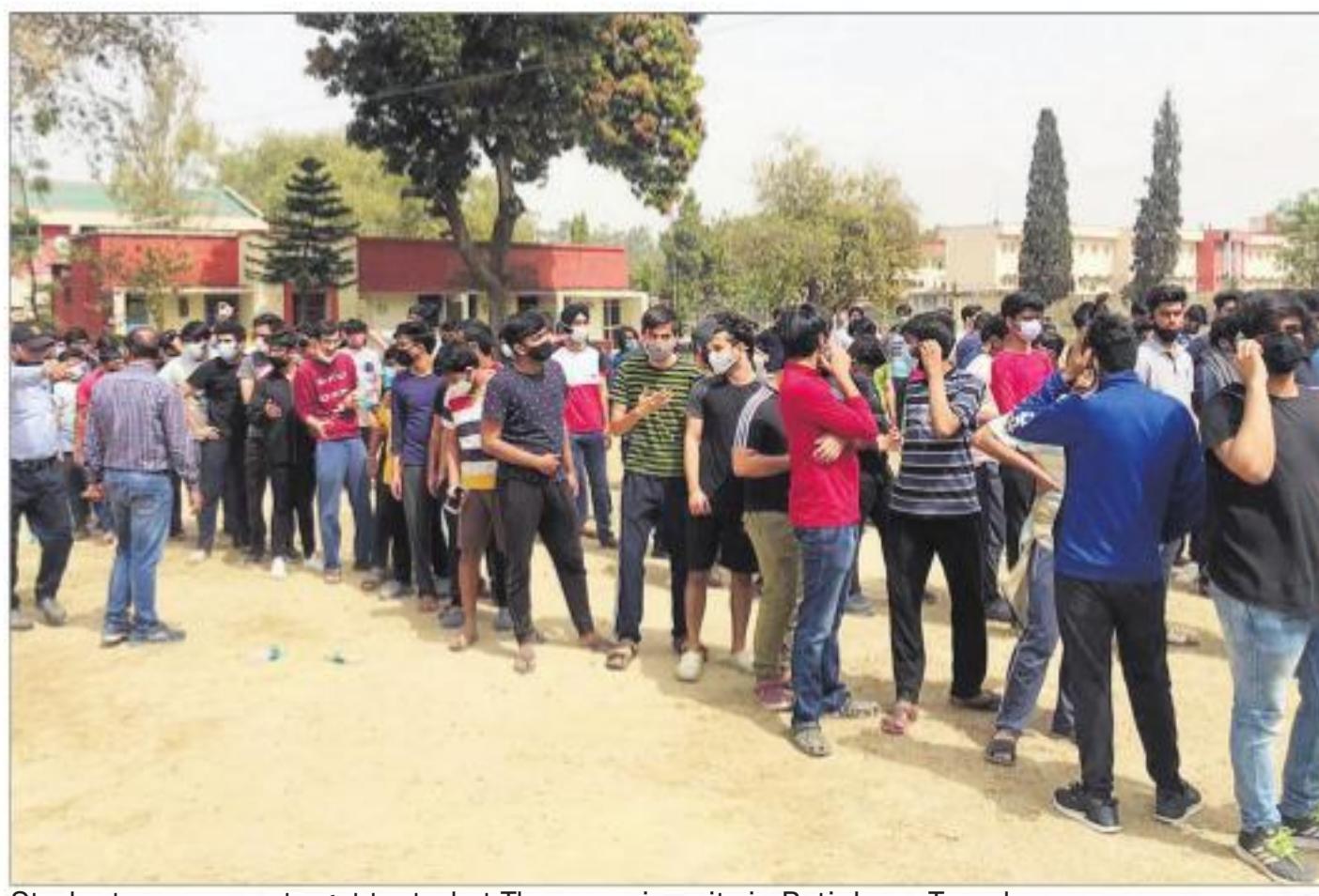
PATIALA, MARCH 16

Thirtyone more students of the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology here tested positive for Covid on Tuesday, while the reports of hundreds of others are still awaited. Now, the tally of infected students has risen to 69 over the past four days.

Subsequent upon large number of Covid cases, six hostels and some residential areas of the Thapar university have already been converted into micro-containment zones.

Frosh Week — a programme to welcome freshers from March 7-13 — is said to have been the trigger for the Covid outbreak on the university campus. During the week, students had organised cultural events, fashion show and sports events among others. Sources said a DJ night was also held on the campus.

When asked about the events, Gurbinder Singh, a



Students queue up to get tested at Thapar university in Patiala on Tuesday. PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

Registrar, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, shrugged off the responsibility by saying: "We had directed the students to follow the Covid guidelines strictly. However, it could be possible that some of them did not follow the protocol to get clicked at the events."

Meanwhile, chaotic scenes were witnessed in the university on Tuesday afternoon, when a large number of students turned up to get tested for the virus. Patiala Civil Surgeon and district epidemiologist Dr Satinder Singh had to rush to the spot to manage the situation. Consequently, the health officials asked to the students to return to their hostels.

Soon, some of the parents reached the campus to take their wards back home. However, the health and university authorities are giving permission to only those parents whose children had a

NIGHT CURFEW IN ROPAR DISTRICT

- As number of Covid-19 cases have started surging in the area, Ropar Deputy Commissioner Sonali Giri has imposed night curfew in the district from Tuesday
- The authorities in neighbouring districts of Nawanshahr, Fatehgarh Sahib and Mohali have already imposed night curfew due to fresh spike in the cases. The DC said there would be curfew from 11 pm to 5 am all over the district till further orders

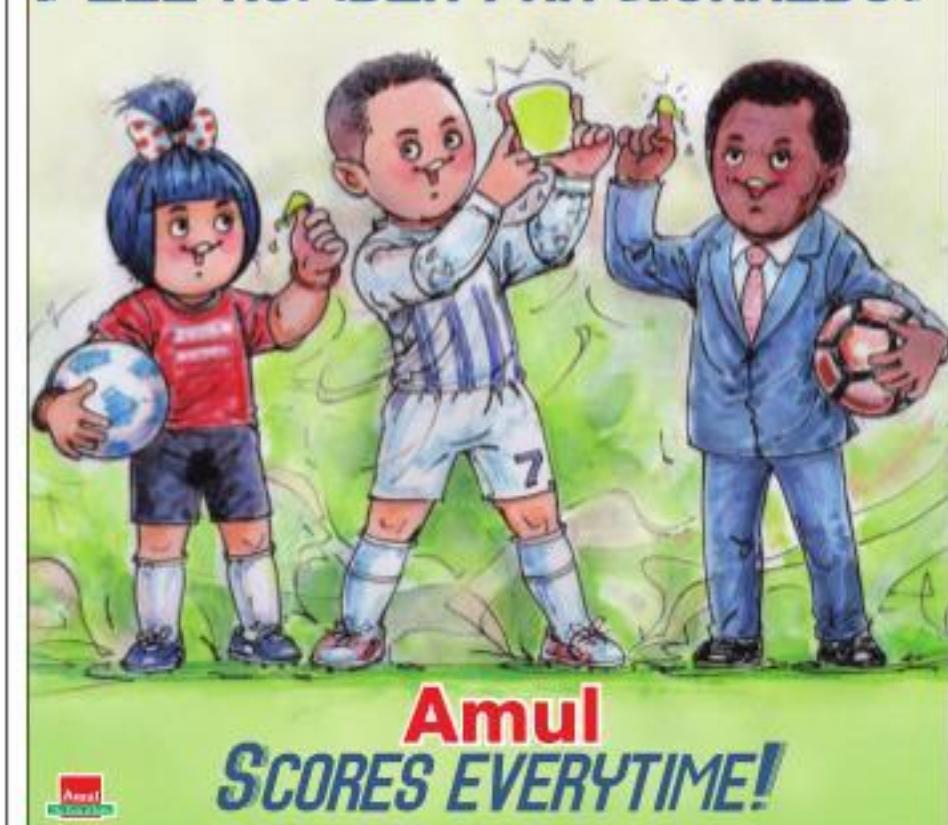
38 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

- The state reported 1,475 Covid cases and 38 deaths in the past 24 hours
- In the district-wise break-up of deaths, Jalandhar reported nine; Ludhiana six; Amritsar, SAS Nagar, SBS Nagar reported four each; Hoshiarpur and Patiala reported three deaths each; Gurdaspur and Muktsar reported two each; and Ferozepur reported one death

286 INFECTED IN LDH

- As many as 56 students were among 286 new cases reported in Ludhiana in the past 24 hours
- Of the 56 students, 49 were from Government Senior Secondary School at Bhundri village in the district. Ten persons, including four from other districts, died in the past 24 hours

PELE NUMBER PAR RONALDO!



daCunha/AB732

FIR filed over social media posts on CM

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16

The police today registered a case against unidentified miscreants for allegedly spreading false and patently defamatory WhatsApp and other social media messages to "tar-nish" the CM's reputation.

The case under the Indecent Representation of Women Act and IT Act has been regis-

tered at the cyber crime, Mohali, on a complaint by Capt Sandeep Sandhu, general secretary in charge, PPCC office, to Director, Bureau of Investigation. Sandhu said the CM's image was being tarnished using a woman's photo, apparently taken from her social media account without her permission. —TNS

Vaccination sites more than doubled

LUDHIANA, MARCH 16

To give impetus to the ongoing inoculation drive following the recent spike in the daily fresh cases, which had quadrupled in the past few days, the Covid vaccination sites have been more than doubled in the state.

While the sites at government health facilities have been increased from 285 to 700 since Monday, private institutions have also been asked to ramp up the number from the present 284. "With this, the inoculation is now available at the PHC level from 9 am to 4 pm on all 7 days of the week," said Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Hussian Lal.

He said 50 per cent of the total registered healthcare and frontline workers had received the first dose. —TNS

State reports six-fold rise in active Covid cases in a month

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 16

Amid second spike of Covid, a steep increase in active cases seems to be a new trouble for the state. In the past month, the active cases have witnessed a six-fold increase.

Till first week of February, the number of active cases had come down to just 2,000 in the state. However, now the number has increased to 12,000. Going by the national scenario, there are over 2.2 lakh active cases in the country. After Maharashtra with 1.3 lakh and Kerala around 26,000, now Punjab has the highest number of active Covid cases in the



WORRYING NUMBERS

DATE	ACTIVE CASES
March 16	11,942
March 9	8,522
March 2	5,198
February 24	3,598
February 17	2,546
February 10	2,112

country. As per the state government's own figures, the number of active cases is around 12,000 at present.

The bigger worry is that the neighbouring states' load of active cases is much lower than Punjab. Like in Haryana, the number of active cases is 3,212,

Soni: People lowered guard

FARIDKOT, MARCH 16

Medical Education and Research Minister OP Soni has blamed people's carelessness in not following social distancing norms and wearing masks for the surge in Covid cases in the state.

Claiming the Covid-19 situation was under control and more than 30,000 tests were being done daily in the state, Soni said there was no need to panic, but people should be cautious and use face masks and follow other measures to prevent spread of the infection. —TNS



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We are pleased to inform the general public that with reference to the Order No. 2900 (E) dated 24th October 2015 issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare and amendment thereafter, Zuar FarmHUB Ltd. (ZFL) will commence the storage and sale of 100% water soluble mixture of fertilizers POORNA-19 (NPK 19:19:19), AVISHKAR (NPK 13:40:13), CHETANA-20 (NPK 20:20:20), SATEJ (NPK 6:12:36), VegGro (NPK 16:8:24), NPX 15:15:15 with Sulphur, Zinc & Boron, NPX 5:25:15:7 with Zinc, Boron & Molybdenum, NPX 6:12:36:8 with Boron and NPK 28:28:0 with Boron & Molybdenum in the state of Punjab & Chandigarh.

The product specifications are given below:

Composition	POORNA-19 NPK 19:19:19	AVISHKAR NPK 13:40:13	CHETANA-20 NPK 20:20:20	SATEJ NPK 6:12:36	VegGro NPK 16:8:24	NPK with Micronutrients 15:15:15	NPKS with Micronutrients 5:25:15:7	NPKS with Micronutrients 6:12:36:8	NPK with Micronutrients 28:28:0
Total Nitrogen, Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	19.0	13.0	20.0	6.0	16.0	15.0	5.0	6.0	28.0
Nitrate Nitrogen, Per Cent by Weight, Maximum	4.0	4.4	4.9	4.5	5.5	3.0	-	3.6	-
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	4.5	8.6	3.0	1.5	7.5	4.0	5.0	2.4	5.0
Urea Nitrogen, Per Cent by Weight, Maximum	10.5	-	12.1	-	3.0	8.0	-	-	23.0
Water Soluble Phosphorus (as P ₂ O ₅), Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	19.0	40.0	20.0	12.0	8.0	15.0	25.0	12.0	28.0
Water Soluble Potassium (as K ₂ O), Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	19.0	13.0	20.0	36.0	24.0	15.0	15.0	36.0	-
Water Soluble Sulphur (as S), Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	7.0	8.0	-
Water Soluble Zinc (as Zn-EDTA), Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	-
Water Soluble Boron (as B), Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Water Soluble Molybdenum (as Mo), Per Cent by Weight, Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.001	-	0.001

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Nawan Naroa **PUNJAB**



**Prioritising Health Sector
for a healthier Punjab**



“ As the global fight against the COVID pandemic continues unabated, I assure my people, on behalf of my government, that we remain committed to working unceasingly to keep them safe. We remain focused on further augmenting our healthcare infrastructure to effectively deal with this unprecedented health crisis, and beyond. I appeal to all to strengthen our hands by stringently adhering to COVID safety protocols, and to get themselves vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones. ”

**Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab**

Effective handling of
COVID-19 crisis

Free COVID vaccine for all

Mission Fateh

COVID testing capacity
increased to 30,000 per
day

New Medical Colleges at
Mohali, Kapurthala,
Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur
and Malerkotla

Free Health Insurance
for 40 lakh families,
5.87 lakh persons got
free treatment

2820 Health &
Wellness Clinics

200 OOAT clinics,
6.36 lakh drug addicts
getting free treatment

Homi Bhabha Cancer
Hospital, Sangrur
made functional

Recruitment of 3067
doctors & 9051
paramedics

Homi Bhabha Cancer
Hospital and Research
Centre, Mullanpur
(Mohali) to start
operations

Free medicines for 92,000
Hepatitis-C patients

Comprehensive and free
school health program

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

The Delhi Bill

Undermining elected govt is anti-democratic

THE contentious issue of distribution of powers between Delhi's elected government and the Lieutenant Governor had more or less been settled, it was felt, following the verdict of the Constitution Bench in 2018 that the L-G's concurrence was not required on issues other than police, public order and land. With the Centre introducing the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, in the Lok Sabha, the dispute has been revived, putting the BJP and AAP back on a collision course. The Kejriwal government's indignation is justified. There is little to disagree with its contention that the 'democratically and constitutionally dangerous move' will render the elections and elected government meaningless.

The Supreme Court ruling, which came after constant AAP-Centre run-ins since 2015, had given the Delhi Government a freer hand. As a consequence, it had stopped sending files to the L-G before implementing policy decisions, though he was kept in the loop regarding administrative developments. As the party explores legal challenges to the dilution of powers that the proposed legislation is set to enforce, the Centre claims the amendments 'further define' the responsibilities and that 'government' in any law made by the Legislative Assembly shall mean the L-G, whose opinion will have to be obtained before taking any executive action.

The repercussions of the amendments go far beyond the political feud. Making it mandatory for an elected government to route all files through the L-G, in an effort to tilt the balance of power, infringes on its autonomy. It also all but ends the hope of full statehood for Delhi, a promise made by every party at one time or the other. The L-G, at present, does have the power to refer any matter over which there is a disagreement to the President, though even here the SC made it clear that the L-G 'should not act in a mechanical manner without due application of mind so as to refer every decision of the Council of Ministers to the President'. The Centre's move is ill-advised.

Job scam in Army

Laxity may affect quality of workforce

THE exposé of a job scam in the Army is a matter of concern. Regarded as an august institution with strict rules which are meant to be complied with, the involvement of its personnel, besides private individuals, is a serious matter. There are allegations of bribery and irregularities in the recruitment of officers and persons of other ranks through the Service Selection Board. The Army holds the CDS and NDA exams through the UPSC which are followed by rigorous physical, psychological and medical tests. The Army also holds recruitment rally for lower ranks for which too there are clear guidelines. The charges mention the involvement of serving personnel in accepting bribes for clearance of medical review of temporarily rejected officer candidates which is serious as it involves compromising the quality of manpower required in the armed forces through arbitrary relaxation in rules.

The pandemic and the lockdown had cast their shadow on Army recruitment also. Not only had the process to be halted temporarily, but also recruitment had to be made in compliance with Covid-specific norms. Registration was done online and candidates were warned to beware of mediators or touts assuring success in the recruitment process. Aspirants were required to bring a Covid-asymptomatic certificate signed by a competent authority and take precautionary measures while taking part in the recruitment process. Laxity in enforcing all this should be ascertained and corrective action taken.

Facing a shortage, the Army had been finding itself unable to attract adequate and quality manpower because of the availability of alternative remunerative career options. An institution that claims to care well for those serving it was finding it difficult to meet its requirements because of the service conditions and risk perception. But circumventing rules is no solution to get the required manpower for a demanding career, especially at a time when the country is involved in a tense standoff on its borders. A CBI inquiry apart, the Army should take action at its own level to fix such lapses.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends on the character of the user. — Theodore Roosevelt

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1921

POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND SOCIAL AMENITIES. THE speech made by Lord Chelmsford in inaugurating the Reform Club, named after him, at Delhi shows the change which the present political situation in India has produced in the mentality of high officials and their lack of true insight into that situation. We do not think a Viceroy with the general views and sympathies of Lord Chelmsford would two years ago have either taken the leading part that His Excellency did in bringing such a club into existence, or have expatiated with enthusiasm, as he did, on the necessity of the official and non-official members not allowing their political differences to stand in the way of personal friendships or social amenities. The reforms added considerably to the influence of the non-official members. Undoubtedly, the power of the central Executive remains very much what it was before the reforms were inaugurated, but they can enjoy that power on only one of two conditions. Either they must be able to carry the Legislature with them or they must constantly bear down the opposition of a hostile Legislature by the use of powers that in their very nature are exceptional and not for everyday use. Similarly, the non-co-operation movement has brought to our officials bedfellows whom until recently they had kept at an arm's length. Asking His Excellency to open the club, Sir William Vincent had said in his speech that many of the differences of opinion that exist among Europeans and Indians, particularly among non-officials, could be overcome by friendly discussions at the club where they would appreciate one another's point of view. And yet until recently an attempt in the direction of facilitating social intercourse between Indians and Europeans, between officials and non-officials, had formed no part of the activities of the class of officials of whom Lord Chelmsford and Sir William Vincent may be taken as the type.

BJP's re-nationalisation card

Is Election 2021 about the regional becoming national or the other way round?



RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

SENIOR JOURNALIST



BIG GAME: The BJP's tendency to elevate a state election to the national level. PTI

Since 2014, every election fought by the BJP — state, civic or rural — has segued into a national referendum.

E-NATIONALISATION was a term coined and used by political researchers and analysts Milan Vaishnav and Danielle Smogard of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to expatiate on the BJP's 2014 victory in a paper, 'A New Era in Indian Politics?' The coinage, since enshrined in the political wordbook, signified the arrival of the BJP as the 'dominant' party that replaced the Congress and ushered in some stability after a long spell of disparate coalitions. However, those using the re-nationalisation coinage add a counterpoint. That is the BJP's 'vulnerability', despite the 'dominance', unlike the Congress, which in its halcyon era was largely unsusceptible to pulls and pressures. It's a date-drawn inference which fostered a perception that the BJP owes its political capital to the North and the West of India and has not tapped the East and the South to bolster its pan-Indian credentials. Between 2014 and 2019, that notion was challenged because the BJP won office in Assam, formed governments in Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh and has been a part of the power structure in Nagaland and Meghalaya. The BJP's success in West Bengal in the last Lok Sabha polls belied the impression that its endeavour at re-nationalisation was a half-baked approach.

Since 2014, every election fought by the BJP — state, civic or rural — has segued into a national referendum, more to the point of a mandate for PM Modi. The outcome was not always on a par with the leadership's expectations. It always fell short of a majority in Maharashtra, lost Bihar in 2015 after an on-target showing in 2014,

won and lost Jharkhand in a five-year span as also heartland states such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. A common theme ran through the BJP's electioneering narrative and discourse. It swivelled around Modi's persona and his government's 'achievements' that were periodically counterpoised by a state leader's charisma as in Jharkhand (Hemant Soren) and Bihar (Tejashwi Yadav). There came a point when it was hard to segregate the national from the regional. The elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala are not qualitatively different. Barring Assam, which has an incumbent BJP CM, the others have pitted Modi against powerful regional chieftains.

For a party that was wedded to the tenet of 'cooperative federalism' when the Gujarat Government, headed by Modi, was storm-tossed by the UPA and entangled in legal cases aplenty, the Centre hasn't been kind towards Opposition-ruled states. That's saying it mildly. Whether it was the implementation of demonetisation and the GST regime or enforcing the contentious CAA or imposing NEET exams or implanting hand-

picked bureaucrats and policemen or facilitating cross-state investigations without keeping the relevant government in the loop or pursuing old cases of malfeasance, the federal structure that underpins the constitutional order has been impugned.

The BJP looks at the issue from another perspective. Obsessed with the 'one nation' catchphrase, to the party the states are essentially adjuncts of the Centre, subordinated to Delhi. By this logic, a state or a local election would be a vote for the Centre, unless of course things went wrong. When the BJP lost Jharkhand, despite a spirited campaign by Modi and his senior ministers, Raghubir Das, the incumbent CM, was expediently blamed for the rout.

Assam typifies the BJP's tendency to elevate a state election to the national level. The CAA and the prospect the changes opened up of mining a Hindu vote bank by legitimising citizenship rights for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh was too tempting to not theme it as a major issue. However, when the BJP's caste Hindu supporters, Ahom and tribal rank-and-file reacted adversely to the perceived threat of another influx of

'infiltrators' encroaching on their land, properties and jobs, it was forced to set aside the issue. It deftly foregrounded 'development' as the principal plank, highlighting Central schemes such as Ujjwala and direct cash transfers, which, its campaigners claimed, eliminated the abhorred middlemen. Of course, Modi was the cherry on the cake. Ground reports from Assam suggest that the apprehensions over the CAA receded into the background, and the 'largesse' the state received from the Centre illustrated the gains to be had from a 'double-engine growth'. The double-engine claim didn't work in Jharkhand because the BJP's CM was extremely unpopular. In Assam, realising that the incumbent, Sarbananda Sonowal, is not a favourite, the BJP signalled that the CM's choice, post-poll, was wide open. The elections are about Modi and the Centre.

In West Bengal too, a carefully crafted campaign — that subsumed the state's pre-supposed subaltern inclination into a larger canvas of hyper-nationalism which delved into pre-Independence history symbolised by the conception of 'Bharat Mata' by novelist Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1880 and Tagore in a 1905 painting — worked. It allowed the BJP to graft contemporary Hindutva totems, notably the Ram temple, on West Bengal's past and shape a faith-centred discourse that ended up making the Trinamool Congress defensive and reactive. Like in Assam, Modi, and not a state leader, is the BJP's mascot.

The limits to the BJP's recent propensity to make the regional national are visible in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, its effort to trounce writers and orators such as Perumal Murugan and Nellai Kannan as 'anti-Hindu' (despite them being Hindus) didn't set the state afire. The 'Modi charisma' that works in pockets in a parliamentary election is markedly absent in the TN Assembly polls, because unlike West Bengal, the voters have figured out that they must elect a dispensation they can relate to. The regional over the national.

At odds with dogmatic assumptions

SHELLEY WALIA

SITTING in my study in the mountains, lost in the thick of greenery around me and listening to Vivaldi's Concerto for cembalo and Mozart's Serenade for Winds, I recall the days spent at seminars in Cambridge in the 1990s. The sessions began after dinner and often carried on to the next evening. The question hour would go on endlessly while the speaker would try to engage with all, firing up our gusto. Our insights began to show signs of mellowness. We became adept at articulating the romance and the significance of our observations. We felt self-assured, because our teachers made us feel important. We began to matter as humans who had a mind of their own. Disagreement was always

welcome. Such were the unconventional and lively days that I spent in the company of my classmates, my teachers, my parents and my sisters.

I needed no urging to take up my profession in the field of literature that was considered a non-profit and futile area to choose, a field without high-prestige credentials. Earlier on in my life, I began to engage critically with the limits of disciplinary complacency and the insincerity of epistemological purity. Cultivating a critically engaging voice and fearless speech for the urgent matters of fair play and parity in the world became my calling, a voice that was the raison d'être of my vocation, unique, spirited and without the resonance or imitation of what has gone by.

I did thrive, but now, away from it all, I seem somewhat disenchanted with a

spiritual and intellectual bankruptcy of the existence of many in the academic profession, replete with dogmatic assumptions, with the struggle for rising up in the social hierarchy, of tasting the humiliation of failure and the fragility of success. The outcome of one's work was not gratification, but the material success of the attainment. The love of hearing applause seemed to be the end of learning. A conspicuous form of ruthlessness underpinned the profession I had so fondly pursued. Colleagues exalted within themselves at another's failure while remaining silent and derisive at someone's success. Often I saw at seminars, an arrogant question being shot at the speaker, more out of a sense of intellectual assertion than humility of finding out a satisfactory answer.

More than anything, around me there seemed to be complete academic insularity with no concern for forms of institutional and systemic injustice. It is now observed that largely, the academic establishments have fallen in line with the state ideology, concerned more for their self-image and their patrons, as opposed to keeping scholars who had the stamina to disagree.

I now realise it was not success, but the simplicity and spontaneity of life that matters most, especially an intellectual activity of curiosity, quiet contemplations and new delights in thinking about the more human questions and the need for reflection on the constant struggle between a sense of justice and the harsh reality of customary rules and regulation, of the tension between the people and power.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Legal aid for prisoners

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad must be aware that a large number of prisoners wanting to challenge the judgment against them in courts do not have enough money to afford lawyers. Their families are hard-pressed for money to arrange for a lawyer to fight their case. Like students in medical colleges serve as interns, attending to patients six months before they get their degrees, those awaiting their law degrees should also spend an earmarked time with needy litigants and fight their case before they get their degrees to practise law. The government is aware that people are often forced to sell all their belongings to defend their case. A large number of innocents get caught in the trap without any finances and continue to sit in prisons because they cannot get lawyers to plead their case. The government must make a law in Parliament and give internship to those graduating in law in defending pending cases of the needy.

LAXMI KANTA CHAWLA, BJP LEADER
AND EX-HEALTH MINISTER OF PUNJAB

Shimla tourist tax

Shimla MC's innovative idea to impose a levy on tourist vehicles

should be appreciated and, in fact, emulated by other civic bodies. Tourists enjoying local facilities and amenities should not mind contributing their mite towards upkeep. The Amritsar MC once imposed a petty token tax on bicycles (1950s) and rickshaws plying on city roads, though collection was not easy. Right now, they have unnecessarily exempted all uncovered plots from property tax, though they are only appreciating in value at the expense of the government.

If they are taxed suitably, they can fetch some much-needed cash because there are thousands of such unbuilt 'kholaas' in the walled city. They are not only an eyesore but also a breeding ground for rats.

MOHAN SINGH, AMRITSAR

Privatising banks

Apropos of 'Banking services hit due to strike', banks remaining shut for four consecutive days may have grave consequences for the economy. What forces bank staff to take such an extreme step? Banks have played a pivotal role in the economic development of our country. A critical analysis of the role and functioning of nationalised banks is imperative. Political interference in the banking system is a prime reason for the whole NPA mess. Privatisa-

tion of banks will weaken an already vulnerable economy in the long term. Capitalistic economy has inherent risks and our country cannot afford to tread on this path blindly.

AMRINDER SINGH MANN, SANGRUR

Sustainable agriculture

Refer to 'Wean farmers off wheat, paddy through incentives'; paddy was only introduced as a second major crop in the state during the Green Revolution. More than 70% of the state is dependent upon groundwater resources. Paddy-growing blocks in the state are overexploited. Resultantly, water level in such areas is 60-80 ft as compared to 5-10 ft in the pre-Green Revolution era and power consumption in agriculture has more than doubled, without any significant rise in area and production.

The government should come up with a definite diversification model for northern states. There is no alternative but to shun wheat-paddy rotation for sustainable agriculture. It is possible to make up for the loss of paddy by promoting it in the Northeast to ensure food security. A holistic approach at the national level is required for sustainable agriculture.

SK MITTAL, PANCHKUL

Quad cooperation

Countering China's assertive policy in the Indo-Pacific, North Korea's nuclear programme and other unlawful activities is possible through Quad cooperation. The US looks at India as a key partner in the Asia-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific represents the most populous and economically dynamic part of the world and India has a crucial role to play. Quad can help in adherence to freedom of navigation, rules-based order, stable trade environment, free air and sea-lane connectivity and upholding international rules and norms.

ROHIT KUMAR GUPTA, SHIMLA

Holi Mohalla celebrations

The government has decided to permit Holi Mohalla gatherings at Anandpur Sahib and Kiratpur Sahib with certain riders. Coronavirus cases are increasing again. Holi Mohalla is a religious festival and people may not follow safety protocols. There can be another corona wave if the government does not take stern steps. Such gatherings should not be allowed. The government should issue prohibitory orders and an advisory to people to pay obeisance from home.

PAWAN SHARMA, NANGAL

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: Letters@tribunemail.com

Keeping options open on strategic autonomy



LT GEN PRADEEP BALI (RETD)

EX-COMMANDER, SIKKIM-BASED 33 CORPS

AMONG all evolving strategic partnerships, Quad seems to be a top priority for the two-month-old Biden administration. The foreign ministers' meeting of the four Quad nations — the US, Japan, Australia and India — was followed by the first ever summit-level talks, which took place virtually on March 12 between the US President and the Prime Ministers of the other three countries.

The major concern of the three members of Quad, other than India, is primarily to counter and check Chinese influence in the Asia-Pacific and specifically in the South China Sea (SCS) in order to safeguard their geopolitical and maritime interests in this region.

India's concerns with regard to China go much beyond this. Interestingly, during the recently held fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that "China and India are each other's friends and partners and not threats or rivals. The two sides need to help each other succeed instead of undercutting."

This woing of India not only highlights its geopolitical and strategic importance but also the weight it car-

ries, politically, militarily and diplomatically. India has never been in an alliance with any other nation or nations. Post World War II, the Cold War came to be waged by forming alliances like Seato, Cento, Nato and the Warsaw Pact, to name a few. Smaller member countries have gone to the extent of even compromising on some aspects of sovereignty in exchange for the benefits of such alliances.

India, on the other hand, has been steadfast in staying on an alliance-free course. Being a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, it clearly spelt out its political line in international affairs. NAM has since lost relevance but multi-polar engagements without any treaty or alliance overtones have been the defining foreign policy architecture for India. It has always stood for strategic partnerships and not any bilateral or multi-lateral unions, be it with Russia or the US.



PLAN OF ACTION: As India is in the pole position with its vaccine diplomacy, it needs to extract reciprocal benefits from Australia and other Quad members. PTI

dispatch military contingents (for logistic support in case of Japan).

While the events on the LAC in eastern Ladakh over the past 10-odd months have accentuated the adversarial relations with China, in the past both countries have been largely on the same page on subjects like environment, climate change and trade issues vis-à-vis the US. During the Cold War era, India depended heavily on the USSR for military hardware and diplomatic support in the UN.

There was tremendous pressure on India to dispatch troops to Afghanistan and at one stage, it seemed like a done deal. However, India refused military participation outside the UN ambit. Compared to this, countries like Japan and South Korea, despite domestic, public and political opinion being very strongly against any involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan, were compelled to

day, strategic autonomy is something which has never been diluted or compromised in any way. In 1965, Pakistan initiated operations against India, greatly bolstered by state-of-the-art military equipment and professional military training provided by the US.

India, on the other hand, had to purchase armaments in hard currency from the Soviets, without any alliance or partnership overtures. In 1971, despite the genocide unleashed in the east, the US backed the Pakistan military government till its final ignominious defeat and even sent a carrier task force towards the Bay of Bengal. India had signed a Treaty of Mutual Friendship with the USSR, but pursued its objectives quite independently, realising these

through an outstanding military victory. In 1999, too, the Pakistani Prime Minister had to rush to Washington seeking US help to end its ill-fated Kargil misadventure. All these were periods of trial and stress for India. However, it did not let its autonomy be eroded by adversity and prosecuted its national aims as it saw fit. It did get help from both the US and the USSR at different junctures, but this was never allowed to grow into a patron-client relationship. This strategic autonomy makes India a valued partner in any grouping of nations, Quad being the latest.

The Trump era saw an unprecedented haranguing of European Nato members for their propensity to take a free

ride. However, these countries, which include an economic powerhouse like Germany, a nation with widespread interests and assets like France, as well as a "has been" power like the UK, that still view themselves as world leaders, behaved like chastened schoolboys, realising that Nato was essential for their relevance in international affairs.

Another interesting case is that of the ASEAN nations, which stick together despite major political differences, due to compelling economic realities.

A major takeaway from the Quad leaders' summit meeting is the focus on Covid-19 vaccine production in India to meet a target of one billion doses, with financial support from the US and Japan. This is a clear recognition of India's capacity and capability in this vital area with the nations of the Indo-Pacific region looking to benefit from it. Other than the expected flagging of security issues in this region, there was a mention of synergised efforts on the subject of climate change and, interestingly, the setting up of a group of experts for joint development of emerging technologies.

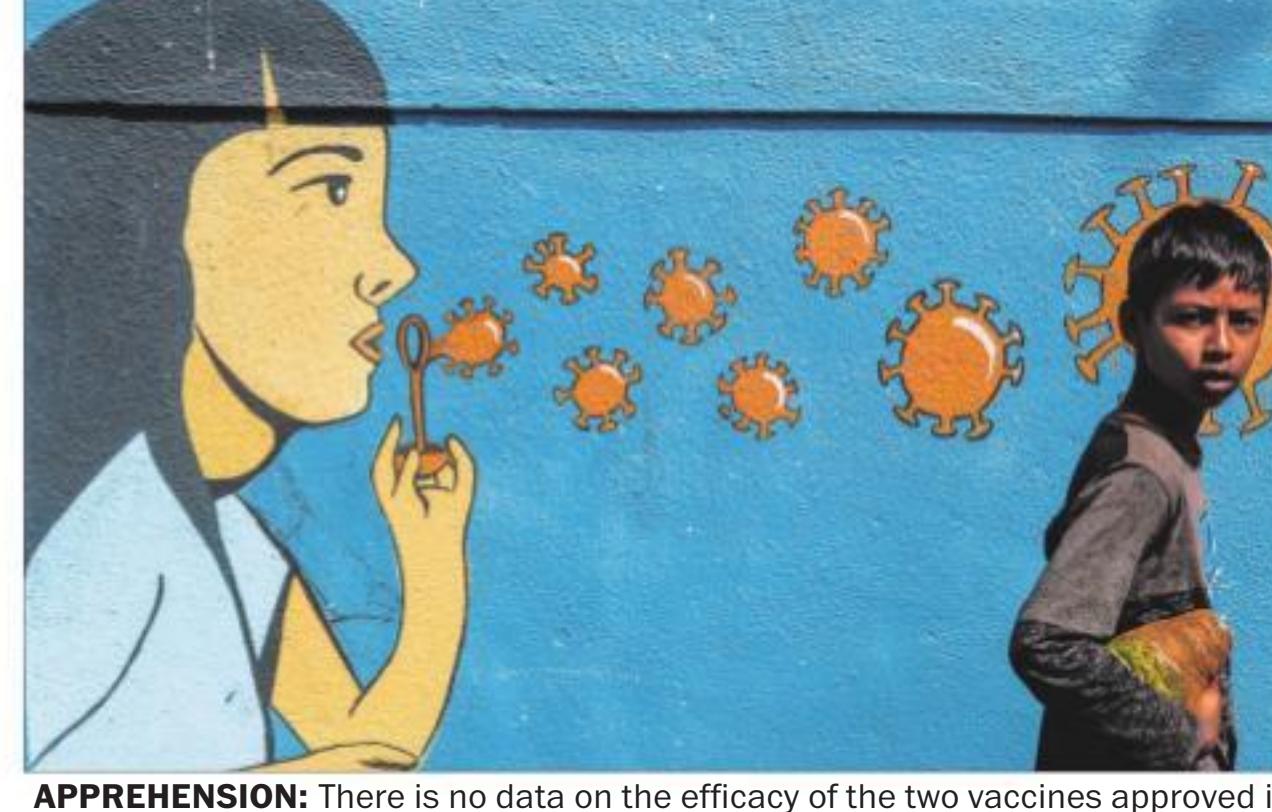
While India is in the pole position right now with its very tangible vaccine diplomacy, it needs to extract reciprocal benefits from the other Quad members, especially the US. India's security concerns are away from the murky waters of the SCS and centred on the Himalayan heights and this needs to be emphatically emphasised. Also, the US has stayed away from sharing vital niche technology with us and this too needs to be given a concrete positive direction.

Hope and despair over variants and vaccines

DR R KUMAR
PRESIDENT, SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF ETHICAL AND AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Should you take the vaccine despite reports of adverse events? The answer is yes.

The US FDA's committee voted 22-0 that benefits of the vaccine 'outweigh its risks for use in individuals 18 years of age or older', so the vaccine should qualify for FDA emergency use authorisation. Most members focused on the importance of getting out another vaccine, given the rising number of variants threatening to curtail progress against the pandemic.



APPREHENSION: There is no data on the efficacy of the two vaccines approved in India against the mutants first found in South Africa and Brazil. PTI

people have been given the jab so far.

We have heard a lot about B.1.1.7 (UK), B.1.351 (South Africa), and P1 (Brazil), but other variants have also emerged, including the one in New York. Named B.1.526, the variant contains the same E484K mutation that has caused concern over B.1.351. This mutation is presumed to allow the virus to partly escape the body's immune response.

Vaccines developed against the original virus have also been found to be less effective against B.1.351. As per the March 2021 issue of the *British Medical Journal*, the variant was "surging, alarmingly, over the past few weeks" and that patients with this variant "were on average older and more frequently hospitalised". Further analysis showed that the B.1.526 variant was

"scattered in the northeast of the US, and its unique set of spike mutations may pose an antigenic challenge."

Pfizer and Oxford-AstraZeneca are reported to be in discussions regarding updating their vaccines to target the new variants. Meanwhile, Moderna has said it is awaiting approval from regulators to start trial with a modified version of its vaccine that will target the B.1.351 variant.

The lack of data on B.1.351 cases means there is no information on vaccine effectiveness against this variant. Germany is facing hesitancy after a German newspaper reported that the vaccine was ineffective in people above 65 years. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine reported efficacy of 66.1 per cent for preventing moderate-to-severe or critical Covid-19, 28 days

after vaccination of a single dose.

The two vaccines approved in India are claimed to be effective against the UK variant but there is no data on their efficacy against the mutants first found in South Africa and Brazil. It is difficult to say how effective the two will be against the new variants, until scientists study them properly and sound data is available.

Covaxin can produce antibodies against many regions of the complete virus, while Covishield produces antibodies against only a specific region of the virus. So, even if there is a mutation in one region, there are antibodies being produced against other regions of the virus which will be effective in case of Covaxin. It is an 'inactivated' vaccine developed by chemically treating coronavirus to make it incapable of reproduction. Scientists are in the process of developing booster jabs to tackle Covid-19 variants.

Should you take the vaccines despite reports of adverse events? The answer is yes. The US FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted 22-0 that benefits of the vaccine "outweigh its risks for use in individuals 18 years of age or older", so the vaccine should qualify for FDA emergency use authorisation (EUA).

Most members focused on the importance of getting out another vaccine against the virus, given the rising number of variants threatening to curtail progress against the pandemic.

The FDA staff noted that efficacy was lower among adults aged 60 years or older with co-morbidities versus healthier seniors. But the vaccine offered advantages like saving hospi-

talisations or deaths. N antibodies tend to fade after three-four months, but the S antibodies last longer, and those are the antibodies that the vaccines will coax the body into producing, so the results are directly comparable. In addition, you have a Covid-19-specific T-cell response after going through the infection. Even if the efficacy is low, vaccine use is recommended.

Should the very old and sick people also take a jab? Individuals with immune-compromised conditions may be eligible to receive the mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, but the safety data for such individuals is not available. Although HIV-positive patients were a part of the clinical trials, the vaccine's safety and efficacy data in these individuals is not yet available. The vaccine may lead to reduced immune response in immune-compromised individuals compared to the others.

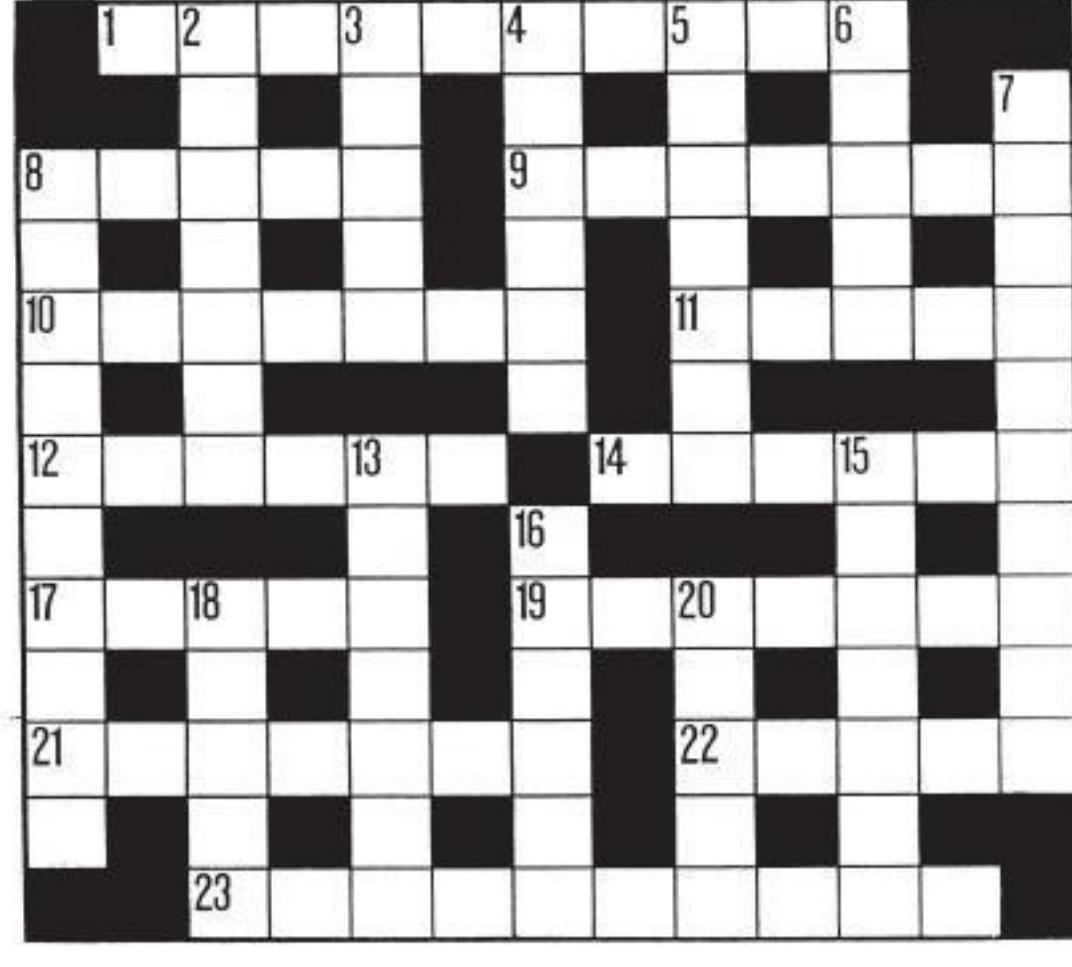
People with autoimmune conditions are also eligible for an mRNA vaccine, but the safety and efficacy data in this specific group is also not available.

It is a big question whether the vaccines can trigger micro clot formation in those suffering from heart disease or diabetes and result in complications.

It is essential to inform the patients about these facts. A few patients who received an mRNA vaccine were reported to develop Bell's palsy.

The following instructions should be mandatorily followed after vaccination — wear a mask; maintain six-foot distance from others; avoid get-togethers and crowds; wash hands with soap and water; sanitise hands using 60 per cent alcohol; and follow travel, quarantine, and workplace guidelines.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Regime, 4 Lawful, 9 Mauldin, 10 Merit, 11 Sheer, 12 On trial, 13 Cut-and-dried, 18 Spinach, 20 Nerve, 22 Evoke, 23 Proffer, 24 Demote, 25 In debt.

Down: 1 Remiss, 2 Gauze, 3 Malaria, 5 Admit, 6 Furtive, 7 Lately, 8 In good shape, 14 Uniform, 15 Run-down, 16 Ascend, 17 Secret, 19 Avert, 21 Rifle.

ACROSS

- 1 Novice (10)
- 8 Final (5)
- 9 Mild (7)
- 10 To struggle (7)
- 11 To amount (3,2)
- 12 Arrive at (6)
- 14 Ostentatiously showy (6)
- 17 Raise with tackle (5)
- 19 Beaming with joy (7)
- 21 After all that has happened (4,3)
- 22 Become finally (3,2)
- 23 Conform under pressure (3,3,4)

DOWN

- 2 Apparent (7)
- 3 Numeral (5)
- 4 Fraudulent scheme (6)
- 5 As a whole (7)
- 6 Sound of walking (5)
- 7 By stages (4,2,4)
- 8 Shabby (4,2,4)
- 13 Deeply felt (7)
- 15 A substitute (5-2)
- 16 An increase in size (6)
- 18 Clumsy (5)
- 20 Reside (5)

SU DO KU



MEDIUM

CALENDAR

MARCH 17, 2021, WEDNESDAY

■ Vivkrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Phalgun Shaka	26
■ Chaitra Parvishtha	4
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 4, up to 11.29 pm	
■ Indra Yoga up to 8.58 am	
■ Ashwin Nakshatra up to 7.31 am	
■ Moon in Aries sign	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 18:32 HRS

SUNRISE: THURSDAY 06:29 HRS

CITY	MAX		MIN		
	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
Chandigarh	32	17	11	10	8
New Delhi	34	18	14	12	10
Amritsar	29	14	12	10	8
Bathinda	32	14	12	10	8
Jalandhar	31	14	12	10	8
Ludhiana	32	18	15	13	11
Bhiwani	34	17	15	13	11
Hisar	32	18	16	14	12
Sirsa	31	17	15	13	11
Dharamsala	23	12	10	8	6
Manali	20	14	12	10	8
Shimla	21	11	9	7	5
Srinagar	12	6	4	2	0
Jammu	27	14	12	10	8
Kargil	04	-02	00	-01	-01
Leh	01	-06	-04	-02	-01
Dehradun	32	15	13	11	9
Mussoorie	20	09	07	05	03

CLASSIFIEDS**PUBLIC NOTICES**

I, Manvir Singh son of Surinder Singh holder of Indian Passport No. N6896652, issued at Vancouver, on 24.5.2016, permanent resident of 26, Atwal Colony Cantt Road, Jalandhar, Punjab, India 144001, and presently residing at 105-12711 64 Avenue, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3W 1X1 do hereby change my name from Manvir Singh to Manvir Singh Narwal, subject to the approval of Indian High Commission at Canada. (CL20109268)

I, Nina d/o Sh. Dayal Masih r/o H. No. 1152, Sector 15-B, Chandigarh, declare that my sons (i) Ashwin Nandan Singh Soin and (ii) Sarv Nandan Singh Soin are out of my control. So, I disown both of them from my all moveable & immovable properties. If anybody deal with them in future he/ she/ they/ them himself responsible for the same. (CL20109326)

I, Ravinder Kumar s/o Late Sukhram r/o Village Habri, Tehsil Pundri (Kaithal), have changed my name to Ravinder Singh. Concerned note. (CL20109352)

I, Shubham s/o Ashok Kumar r/o Ward No. 1, Sushil Marg, Bhakra Road, Nangal (Pin 140124), Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Rupnagar (Punjab) have changed my name from Shubham to Shubham Dhiman. (CL20109358)

COURT NOTICES**(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of
Sh. Harish Anand
Addl. Principal Judge,
Family Court,
Patiala.

Narpat Singh Cheema
Versus
Balveer Kaur

CNR No.:
PBPT01-008570-2019
Next Date: 27.07.2021

Publication issued to:
Balveer Kaur daughter:-

Gurmukh Singh Dharmi w/o
Narpat Singh r/o above
Central Bank Khatauli,
District Muzzafar Nagar U.P.
251201

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala

Dated, this day of 18.02.2021.
Sd/- Addl. Principal Judge,
Family Court,
CL20100691 Patiala.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sh. Rakesh Kumar-I
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court,
Ludhiana.

Sharpanpal Singh
Versus
General Public

CNR No.:
PBLD01-002048-2021
Next Date: 01.04.2021

Publication issued to:
General Public

Father:- Unknown
Ludhiana

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana

Dated, this day of 25.02.2021.
Sd/-
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court,
CL20103712 Ludhiana.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Dr Gurpreet Kaur
Civil Judge,
(Senior Division),
Mansa.
Andhra Bank
Versus
M/s Narang Traders

Suit for Grant of decree of
Recovery of Rs. 814476/-
alongwith interest as prayed for

CNR No.:
PBMMN02-001115-2021
Next Date: 28.04.2021

Publication issued to:
1. M/s Narang Traders one way
Traffic Road Mansa through
Prop. Nilan Narang s/o Sardari Lal
Nilan r/o W. No. 19, Veer
Nagar Mohalla Mansa.

2. Anil Narang s/o Sardari Lal r/o
Ward No. 19, Veer Nagar,
Mansa sole Prop M/s Narang
Traders.

3. Vinod Narang s/o Sardari Lal r/o
Ward No. 20 Water Works
Road, Mansa.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district= mansa

Dated, this day of 03.03.2021.
Sd/-
Civil Judge,
(Senior Division),
CL20103914 Mansa

COURT NOTICES

**In the Court of
Sh. Gurbinder Singh Johal
Judicial Magistrate - Ist
Class-4, Patiala.**
Banita Saini
Vs.
Balram Saini
CNR No.:
PBPT03-010614-2020
Next Date: 07.05.2021

Publication issued to:
1. Balram Saini s/o Sh. Ujjagar Mal
2. Smt. Asha Rani Saini w/o
Balram Saini
Both residents of House No. 27-B, Street No. 4, Vikas Colony, Patiala, permanent residents of 209, Valentina Way, California USA.

In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 07.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to:
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala

Dated, this day of 04.03.2021.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate - Ist
Class-4, Patiala.

CL20106331 (U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Sandeep Kaur
Civil Judge,
Junior Division-12,
Patiala.

Sanjay Kumar
Versus
General Public
CNR No.:
PBPT02-000461-2021
Next Date: 01.04.2021

Publication issued to:
General Public
Patiala

In above titled case, the (General Public) could not be served. It is ordered that General Public should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala

Dated, this day of 15.03.2021.
Sd/-
Civil Judge,
Junior Division-12,
CL20109168 Patiala.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) (Succession Case)

In the Court of
Hirdejit Singh
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division), Phillaur.

Surinder Singh s/o Amrik Singh Etc. r/o Village Dhalialvi Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar. Versus

1. General Public
2. Rita Moncley wd/o Bawa Singh r/o 21 Arthur Road, Hardsworth Birmingham B21 9HY U.K.

CNR No.:
PBJLB0-000967-2020
Next Date: 01.04.2021

Notice to: General Public
Rita Moncley wd/o Bawa Singh r/o 21 Arthur Road, Hardsworth Birmingham B21 9HY U.K.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 11.12.2020.
Sd/-
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
CL20109251 Phillaur

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Hirdejit Singh
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Phillaur

Manjot Kaur @ Krishna d/o Prem Singh s/o Chanan Singh r/o Village Akalpur, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar.

Versus
1. Makhan Singh s/o Lashkar Singh s/o Jagtar Singh, 2. Rana @ Santokh Singh s/o Lashkar Singh s/o Jagat Singh both are r/o Village Akalpur, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar.

Publication issued to:
1. Makhan Singh s/o Lashkar Singh s/o Jagtar Singh, 2. Rana @ Santokh Singh s/o Lashkar Singh s/o Jagat Singh both are r/o Village Akalpur, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar.

Whereas it has proved to the satisfaction of this Court that you, the above named accused/ accused person can't be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation under 82 of Code of Criminal Procedure is hereby issued against you with a direction that you should appear personally before this court on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m. or within 30 days from the date of publication of this proclamation.

Take notice that, in case of default on your part to appear as directed above said case will be heard and determined as per law, in your absence.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 27.11.2020.
Sd/- Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
CL20109253 Phillaur.

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Pooja Andotra
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division), Rupnagar.
CNR No.:
PBRO02-000038-2020
Next Date: 01.04.2021
Rupinder Singh
Versus
Piara Singh
Suit for declaration

Publication issued to:
1. Piara Singh son of Joginder Singh, 2. Gurmit Kaur wife of Piara Singh, Address: Village Khokhar, Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib, District Rupnagar. ...Defendants

4. Simranj Kaur daughter of Piara Singh, 5. Gurwinder Kaur daughter of Piara Singh, Address: Village Khokhar, Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib, District Rupnagar.

...Proforma Defendants

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala

Dated, this day of 04.03.2021.
Sd/-
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
CL20109254 Rupnagar.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Rajesh Kumar Mehta
Additional District and
Sessions Judge,
Karnal.

M/s Vridhi Properties Pvt. Ltd. through its Auth Signatory Virender Singh Versus Krishni

For Acceptance of Appeal
CNR No.:
HRKR01-006854-2016
CIS No.: CA 569/2016

Next Date: 01.04.2021

Publication issued to:
Veena @ Sona w/o Kumar Vijay d/o Satish Kumar r/o A-VERNOI (PO) FRAZ TERRIGOLI VIA DECCO SCOPCTINO N 31 ITALY.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.04.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala

Dated, this day of 15.03.2021.
Sd/- (Rajesh Kumar Mehta)
Additional District and
Sessions Judge,
CL20109265 Karnal.

**In the Court of
Sh. Suresh Kumar**

Judicial Magistrate - 1 Class,
Faridkot.
Harinder Pal Singh
Vs.
Peeyoosh Saini
CNR No.:
PBFD03-002261-2017

Next Date: 05.05.2021

Publication issued to: Peeyoosh Saini:- A division of Drishti Foundation 40-B, Second Floor, Puran Sarai Green Park Ext. New Delhi 110016, Mob. No. 87440-41848.

Officer Incharge of Police Station/Police Officer:- PS City Faridkot, Faridkot, Punjab.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that Peeyoosh Saini R/o - A division of Drishti Foundation 40-B, 2nd Floor, Yusuf Sarai Green Park Ext. New Delhi 110016 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Peeyoosh Saini cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Peeyoosh Saini has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Peeyoosh Saini, age - 0 is required to appear at Criminal Courts, Faridkot before Judicial Magistrate - 1 Class to answer the said complaint the day of 05.05.2021.

Dated, this day of 05.03.2021.
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate - 1 Class,
CL20109267 Faridkot.

Criminal Courts, Ludhiana

In the Court of
Sh. Ramesh Kumar
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class,
Ludhiana.

Next date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgements as well as other case information is available on <http://ecourts.gov.in>

Viney Knitwear Pvt. Ltd.
Versus

M/s PB Retailz Pvt. Ltd.

CNR No.: PBLD03-012917-2018

Next Date: 01.04.2021

Publication issued to:
M/s PB Retailz Pvt. Ltd. Address:

Through Pawan Aggarwal Dir PB Retailz Pvt. Ltd., RZ-11G, Puran Nagar, Palam Goan, Opp. Palam Police Station, New Delhi.

Pawan Aggarwal Director PB Retailz Pvt. Ltd., RZ-11G, Puran Nagar, Palam Goan Opp. Palam Police Station, New Delhi.

Whereas it has proved to the satisfaction of this Court that you, the above named accused/ accused person can't be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation under 82 of Code of Criminal Procedure is hereby issued against you with a direction that you should appear personally before this court on 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m. or within 30 days from the date of publication of this proclamation.

Take notice that, in case of default on your part to appear as directed above said case will be heard and determined as per law, in your absence.

For details logon to
<a href="https://highcourthd.gov.in/?

No death due to Covid jab in state: Minister

SHIMLA, MARCH 16
Health and Family Welfare Minister Rajeev Saizal today informed the House that no death had taken place in the state due to Covid vaccine.

He was replying to a query by a CPM MLA during Question Hour. "A total of 1,70,999 persons have been vaccinated till March 13 of which 1,02,093 were given the first dose," he said. An Anganwari worker died 22 days after receiving the vaccine. "It is only after the viscer report is received that the cause of the death will be known," he said. —TNS

35 nursing students test +ve in Una

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNA, MARCH 16
Thirtyfive girl students of Himcapes Nursing College tested Covid positive in the district today.

They were staying in a hostel located at Badheda village of Haroli.

Six students staying in the hostel were found infected yesterday after which tests were conducted on the basis of contact tracing. Himcapes is being run by a cooperative and has separate wings for BSc Nursing and LLB courses.

Deputy Commissioner Raghav Sharma said Himcapes Nursing College would remain closed for five days and the hostel had been declared Covid Care Hospital where all health facilities were being provided.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer Dr Raman Kumar Sharma said swab samples of 107 more students from the college had been sent for laboratory examination.

Till date, about 3,200 people had tested positive in the district, of which there had been 47 deaths.



SHUT FOR FIVE DAYS

- The institution will remain closed for five days
- The hostel declared as Covid Care Hospital
- Swab samples of 107 more students collected

119 CASES IN 24 HRS

The state reported 119 new cases of Covid and one death from Mandi district in the past 24 hours. The highest number of 54 cases was reported in Una, followed by Shimla (30) & Kangra (14).

State gets 250 ventilators

SHIMLA, MARCH 16
The state has received 250 more ventilators from the Cente in addition to the 500 received last year amid the pandemic.

"Covid is showing signs of resurgence in the state. So, it's good to have these additional ventilators. One never knows how the situation will unfold in the coming days," said Dr Ramesh Chand, State Nodal Officer and Deputy Director (procurement). —TNS

3 pvt varsities face fine for non-compliance

THE TRIGGER

The Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission had directed these institutes to pay salaries to 43 employees (not paid for almost a year) by March 16, refund security of over 300 students and give back Class XII original certificates to students.

with the charges of an advocate hired by them.

Meanwhile, the management of 45 colleges, where the principals were found ineligible for the post, would represent their case before the commission on March 18, 19 and 20. The regulator had sought a clarification from the institutes, failing which it would recommend cancellations of the affiliations to the government and Himachal Pradesh University.

The HPPIERC had received information from 70 colleges of which 61 were screened and 45 principals were found ineligible. Information from over 100 colleges is still awaited.

Two stranded patients rescued



BUDGET SESSION

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MARCH 16

Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Minister Mahender Singh today came under fire as Congress legislators accused him of concentrating development funds in his own and chief minister's constituencies while ignoring rest of the state.

It was during the cut motion on the IPH Department in the Vidhan Sabha today that the minister faced these allegations. It was Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mukesh Agnihotri who launched a scathing attack on both the minister and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. " —Mukesh Agnihotri, CLP LEADER

'JAL MISSION FOR ONLY TWO SEGMENTS'

The Jal Jeevan Mission is confined to only two assembly segments — Dharampur, represented by the IPH Minister, and Seraj, the segment of the CM. Almost 47% of the total budget has been spent here.

— Mukesh Agnihotri, CLP LEADER

leges and schools in Shillai assembly segment, Education Minister Govind Thakur informed that 4,000 posts of teaching and non-teaching would be filled. Besides this, posts of 500 teachers in the higher secondary schools will also be filled shortly, he added.

"The Jal Jeevan Mission is not for the entire state but confined to the two assembly segments

Dharampur, represented by the IPH Minister and Seraj, the assembly segment of the CM. Almost 47 per cent of the total budget has been spent here," alleged Agnihotri. He sought details of the schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission and the tenders which had been floated without budgetary allocation. He also alleged that all the jobs under the mission had been given only to people from these two assembly segments.

Asha Kumari said that the saying, "hum do hamare do" is totally apt for the Jal Jeevan Mission with the IPH Minister and CM being the only beneficiaries. Ram Lal stressed the need for quality control in the works being undertaken by the IPH department.

With the members refusing to take back the cut motion, the motion fell through voice vote.

Five lakh tourists visited Atal Tunnel in 5 months

KULLU, MARCH 16

The strategically important 9.02 km Atal Tunnel, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020, is an attraction for tourists. The data from the Tourism Department reveal that around 5 lakh tourists have visited the tunnel. Kullu District Tourism Development Officer Krishan Chand said 4,07,036 tourists had visited the tunnel between December 2020 and January 2021.

Around 38,060 vehicles had been registered in the Green Tax barriers near Manali in January 2021 while 15,299 vehicles had entered manali in January 2020.

The DTDO said 6,54,622 tourists had arrived in Manali from October to February. It is clear from the data, provided by the department, that since December, there has been a huge increase in the tourist count in Manali. The tunnel has become a major tourist attraction. —OC

GOVT COLLEGE LUDHIANA EAST WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Walk-in interview for the Data Operator (English/Punjabi Type Test) on DC rate will be held on 22nd March, 2021 at 9.30 A.M. in the office of the Principal, S.C.D. Govt. College, Ludhiana.

Name of the Post- Data Operator-01

D.D.O-cum-Principal,
Govt. College, Ludhiana (East)

WALK-IN INTERVIEW HARYANA AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY, PANCHKULA

Medical Officers, (ART Centre PGIMS Rohtak) are to be appointed on contract basis under Haryana State AIDS Control Society Panchkula up to 31.03.2021 (which may be further extended/renewed if required) by HSACS, Panchkula. Eligible and interested candidates shall have to apply on prescribed form available from the O/o Civil Surgeon, Rohtak. Candidates should reach for walk-in interview with all original documents/testimonials, one latest colour photograph and one set of self-attested photocopies of all documents in the O/o Civil Surgeon, Rohtak on every Monday and Thursday till the vacancy is filled. The process of registration/Submission of the form will be done between 09:00 am to 11:00 am.

Sr. No.	Name and No. of Posts with category	Qualification	Age	Consolidated Salary Per Month
1	Medical Officers -ART Centre PGIMS Rohtak (i) M.B.B.S. with valid registration with Medical Council.	ESSENTIAL	18 to 70 Years	Rs 50000/-

Sd/- Civil Surgeon, Rohtak

PRDH/1058/11/30/2021/2198/314

DIPS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Rarra Morra-Jalalpur, Tanda, Distt.-Hoshiarpur (Pb.)

Recognized by NCTE and affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh

1. Applications on the prescribed Proforma, available with the college or can be downloaded from Panjab University, Chandigarh website, are invited on regular basis for the post of **Principal**, who are eligible candidates in accordance with the qualifications/conditions laid down by U.G.C / Punjab State Govt. / NCTE / Panjab University through registered post or person in so as to reach the college with a copy to the Dean, College Developmental Council, Panjab University, Chandigarh within the 30 days from the publication of the advertisement. The candidates are also required to submit 9 photocopies of the prescribed Proforma to the college while sending their application.

2. Applications on the prescribed Proforma, available with the college or can be downloaded from Panjab University, Chandigarh website, are invited on regular basis for the post of **Assistant Professors** for Perspective in Education-3, for Pedagogy subjects-English(1), Hindi(1), Punjabi(1), Science (1), Computer Science (1), Social Studies (1), Mathematics (1), Physical Education (1), Commerce(1), Home Science(1), Fine Arts (1) Performing Arts-Music/Drama/Theatre (1) and Health and Physical Education (1) for B.Ed. Course, eligible candidates in accordance with the qualifications / conditions laid down by U.G.C / Punjab State Govt. / NCTE / Panjab University, Chandigarh may be send their application to the college within 21 days from the publication of the advertisement through registered post or in person and a copy of the application be also sent to Dean, College Developmental Council, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Reservation for SC/ST candidates and persons with disabilities will be followed as per the rules of P.U./Pb. Govt./U.T. Administration/ Govt. of India as the case may be.

Chairman/President

Contact No. 9871617371, 9876189710 Email Id: dipsedur@gmail.com

Bal Bharati PUBLIC SCHOOL

Phase-III, Dugri, Ludhiana- 141013.

(An Institution of Child Education Society)

Ph. : 0161-2520870, 2521070, 2521170

REQUIRES w.e.f. 1st July 2021

- PGT Mathematics : M.Sc., B.Ed
- PGT Sociology : M.A., B.Ed
- Asstt. Teacher Computer : BCA / MCA
- Asstt. Teacher Art & Craft : M.A / MFA
- Asstt. Teacher Sports : B.P.Ed / M.P.Ed
- IT Engineer : Diploma/BCA/B.Tech in Computer Science/IT with min. 1-2 years of exp.
- Coach : Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Athletics, Judo, Karate, Skating, Swimming, Tennis, Yoga, Physical Trainer (NIS Trained)
- Teacher Assistant Montessori : B.A/M.A

PAY SCALE- AS PER SCHOOL RULES

• Preference will be given to experienced, highly motivated, creative candidates having good command of English, proficiency in computers and flair for initiating innovative programmes and activities.

Note: 1. The school reserves the right to treat any post deemed cancelled.

2. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.

Apply within 7 days to the Principal. Application forms are available for Rs. 100/- in the School Office between 10am to 1pm on all working days. Forms can also be downloaded from website www.bbpsiidh.balbharti.org and submitted to the school office along with a payment of Rs. 100/- or sent by post to the address given above, accompanied by a demand draft of Rs. 150/- in favour of Bal Bharati Public School, Ludhiana.

The ICFAI University, Himachal Pradesh (Baddi)



The ICFAI University, Himachal Pradesh (Baddi) welcomes dynamic individuals with positive outlook and proven credentials for the following positions for immediate appointment.

Registrar & Controller of Examinations

Candidates should have a Master's Degree with at least 55% of marks or an equivalent CGPA. They should have at least 15 years of experience as Assistant Professor and above [OR] 8 years of service as Associate Professor along with experience in educational administration [OR] Comparable experience in research establishment and/or other institutions of higher education [OR] 15 years of administrative experience of which 8 years shall be as Deputy Registrar or an equivalent post.

Candidates with previous experience as CoE/ Deputy CoE will be given preference for the post of CoE.

Professors (Management and Science & Technology)

Candidates should be a Postgraduate in respective discipline (Management and Science & Technology) with minimum 55% marks or an equivalent CGPA with Ph.D. They should have 10 years of experience in teaching / research / industry out of which at least 3 years shall be at a post equivalent to that of an Associate Professor.

Candidate should have published at least 6 research publications at the level of Associate Professor in SCI Journals / UGC / AICTE approved list of journals and at least 2 successful Ph.D. guided as a supervisor or co-supervisor [OR] they should have at least 10 research publications at the level of Associate Professor in SCI journals / UGC / AICTE approved list of journals.

Remuneration will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

Interested candidates complying with the minimum essential requirements may e-mail clearly mentioning the post applied for, in the subject line to: hr.careers@iuhimachal.edu.in enclosing eligibility testimonials on or before 27 March, 2021.

ADVERTISEMENT APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS/TUTOR (SPECIALIST) IN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGES OF THE STATE

Applications are invited from all the candidates fulfilling the requisite qualifications and other eligibility conditions on the prescribed application form as per Appendix 'A' for the posts of Senior Residents/Tutor (Specialist) in the Govt. Medical Colleges of the State. The posts are available in I.G.M.C., Shimla, Dr. R.P.G.M.C. Kangra at Tanda, Dr. YSPGMC, Nahan, SLBSCGM-Candi at Ner Chowk, Pt. JLNGMC, Chamba and Dr. RKGMG, Hamirpur. The last date by which the interested candidates are required to submit their application forms duly filled in all respects alongwith copy of the receipt of application fee in the office of Principal, Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla -cum-Member Secretary Counselling Committee complete in all respects along with requisite application fee (Rs. 1500/- for General category and Rs. 1000/- for SC/ ST/OBC category is 05.04.2021 upto 5:00 PM beyond which no application shall be entertained. The requisite application fee will have to be deposited through on-line mode only i.e. through the link https://www.onlinesbi.com/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm (PRINCIPAL IGMC SR RESIDENCY INTERVIEW ACCOUNT). The details of availability of vacancies are provided at Appendix-B of this advertisement notice. The speciality-wise vacancy, eligibility criteria and other terms & condition of selection/appointment can be seen as well as downloaded from the website www.igmcshimla.edu.in and http://www.hp.gov.in/hpdmer/ The candidates should regularly remain in touch with the website as the further changes, if any, & other information will be conveyed online through the Institutional website.

(Dr. Rajnish Pathania)
Principal, IGMC, Shimla -cum- Member Secretary
Counselling Committee

DPR/HP/6561

DAV COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE CHITRA GUPTA ROAD, (Paharganj) NEW DELHI-110055. Tel.: (011) 23503500

Advt. No. C.Prin.PB/March/2021/02
Invites Applications from a Women candidates for a regular post of Asstt. Professors in Mass Communication against **Un-covered Post** in the pay-scale of Rs.15,600-39100 +AGP 6000 as per norms of the University, within 21 days from the date of publication, obtainable from the College Website www.mcm davchd.edu.in and submit the same to this Office alongwith a Bank Draft of Rs.250/- which should be in favour of "Secretary, DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi".
Eligibility:- Candidates with the qualifications/conditions laid down by the UGC/State Govt./Panjab University, may send their application through Registered post/Speed- post or in person and a copy of the application along with the necessary documents be sent to the Dean, College Development Council, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. With each application for the said post, a bank draft for Rs.1000/- + 18% GST (Non-Refundable) be also sent to the University in the name of Registrar, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Candidates must have passed Punjabi upto Matric level.
Submission of application Forms:- Application attached with (i) copies of the testimonials/degrees (ii) "No Objection Certificate", from the present employer and (iii) API score proforma and obtaining/clearance of API Scores, as per norms will only be entertained on or before the due date.

Downloaded from the website www.igmcshimla.edu.in and http://www.hp.gov.in/hpdmer/ The candidates should regularly remain in touch with the website as the further changes, if any, & other information will be conveyed online through the Institutional website.

Interested parties may visit the website www.hsiidc.org.in and <http://www.hsiidc.bidx.in> for eligibility criteria, participation, payment procedure and other terms & conditions of e-auction/allotment.

For any queries, please contact Mr. Vijay Godara, Estate Manager-II, IMT Manesar : +91- 8377884811

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FOR PROVIDING HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

10

Notice
Public Health Engineering Department, Haryana
PHED Haryana
REQUEST OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - EOI
"WATER SECTOR PROJECT"

"Expressions of Interest - EOI"**Smart Wireless Water Source Management with Sensor Based Web Monitoring System Including Operation & Maintenance**

1. Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Haryana intends to Engage Agency for Smart Wireless Water Source Management with Sensor based Web Monitoring System Including Operation & Maintenance.
2. Eligible Agencies are invited to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested agency must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar work, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.). The eligibility criterion for the assignment is mentioned in the detailed EoI document.
3. The information regarding experience and qualification provided in the EOI will be evaluated and the firms having requisite experience and competence relevant to assignment shall be assessed and compared.
4. Public Health Engineering Department, Haryana may at its discretion cancel the EOI process or initiate fresh bidding/procurement process with or without giving any preference to EOI Applicants.
5. Interested companies/firms/agencies may refer detailed "ToR" placed at the Departmental Website: <https://phedharyana.gov.in/>. Last date & time for submission of the EOI is 15.04.2021 latest by 05:00 P.M.
6. "Note": Any corrigendum(s) to the Request for Expression of Interest shall be published on the website only."

Public Health Engineering Department,
Bay No. 13-18, Sector 4,
Panchkula 134112.
Tel: 0172-2564308,
e-mail: se.rural@phedharyana.gov.in

PRDH/1136/11/2021/2187/31/4

DAKSHIN HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM
E-auction Notice

E-auction of scrap/unserviceable material lying in various Stores/TRWs under DHBVN is scheduled for 31.03.2021 through M/s MSTC Ltd. New Delhi. For detailed information, all prospective bidders/buyers may please refer the websites i.e. www.mstcecommerce.com and www.dhbvn.org.in.

PRDH/1136/11/2021/2187/31/4

NORTHERN RAILWAY**TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.II, Northern Railway, Chandigarh, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two-Packet System for the undernoted work:

1. Name of work and location	Construction of foundations, substructure and superstructure of Road over bridges in lieu of level crossing No. Special 1-A on Raipur-Patiala section, level crossing No. 154-C & 167-C on Ambala-Ludhiana section and Road over bridge cum Road under bridge in lieu of level crossing No.151-C on Ambala-Ludhiana section including miscellaneous and allied works.
2. Completion period of the work	12 (Twelve) Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 3993.40 lacs.
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online)	Nil
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 26.03.2021 date on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 16.04.2021
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender documents is available on web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 02.04.2021 to 16.04.2021. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 349-W/Const-II/CDG/10/2020-21 Dated: 16.03.2021 592/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**Haryana Staff Selection Commission**
Bays No. 67-70, Sector-2, Panchkula — 134154
(www.hssc.gov.in)**ANNOUNCEMENT****Final Result for the post of Divisional Accountant of (HVPNL), Haryana Against Advt. No. 11/2019, Cat No. 09.**

On the basis of Written Examination, Scrutiny of Documents and Socio-economic criteria for the post of Divisional Accountant of HVPNL, Haryana against Advt. No. 11/2019, Category No. 09, the Commission has finalised and declared the result. The result has been shown Roll No. wise and category wise and the marks secured by the last selected candidate in each category have been shown in the bracket.

Advt. No. 11/2019, Cat. No. 09, Divisional Accountant (10 Posts) General (05 Posts)

1199000119 1199001601 1199002128 1199002254 1199002399 (91)

General Waiting 1199001542 1199001785 (89)

SC (01 Post) 1199000680 (74)

SC Waiting 1199002906 (74)

BCA (01 Post) 1199001572 (84)

BCA Waiting 1199001370 1199002409 (78)

EWS (01 Post) 1199002388 (88)

ESM GEN (01 Post) 1199000597 (59)

ESM GEN Waiting 1199001342 1199003136 (ESM SELF 55 & DESM 72)

ESM BCB (01 Post) 1199002138 (75)

ESM BCB Waiting 1199003693 (68)

CRITERIA ADOPTED FOR SELECTION

1.) WRITTEN EXAMINATION.....90-MARKS

2.) SOCIO ECONOMIC CRITERIA.....10-MARKS

TOTAL:- 100-MARKS

NOTE:- 1. While every care has been taken in preparing and uploading the result, possibility of inadvertent/technical errors cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves the right to rectify the same later on.

2. The result is also available on the website of HSSC i.e. www.hssc.gov.in.

Sd/- Secretary
Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Dated:- 15.03.2021

PRDH/1159/13/56/2021/2189/31/4

Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Bays No. 67-70, Sector-2, Panchkula — 134154
(www.hssc.gov.in)**ANNOUNCEMENT****Final Result for the post of Section Officer Account of (HVPNL), Haryana Against Advt. No. 11/2019, Cat No. 08.**

On the basis of Written Examination, Scrutiny of Documents and Socio-economic criteria for the post of Section Officer Account of HVPNL, Haryana against Advt. No. 11/2019, Category No. 08, the Commission has finalised and declared the result. The result has been shown Roll No. wise and category wise and the marks secured by the last selected candidate in each category have been shown in the bracket.

Advt. No. 11/2019, Cat. No. 08, Section Officer Account (06 Posts) General (03 Posts)

1198000837 1198005235 1198005386 (93)

General Waiting 119800093 1198006086 (85)

SC (01 Post) 1198005013 (79)

SC Waiting 1198005237 (76)

BCA (01 Post) 1198003061 (72)

BCA Waiting 1198000350 1198001665 (71)

Note:- 01 Post EWS category remained vacant due to non availability of suitable candidates.

CRITERIA ADOPTED FOR SELECTION

1.) WRITTEN EXAMINATION.....90-MARKS

2.) SOCIO ECONOMIC CRITERIA.....10-MARKS

TOTAL:- 100-MARKS

NOTE:- 1. While every care has been taken in preparing and uploading the result, possibility of inadvertent/technical errors cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves the right to rectify the same later on.

2. The result is also available on the website of HSSC i.e. www.hssc.gov.in.

Sd/- Secretary
Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Dated:- 15.03.2021

PRDH/1159/13/55/2021/2188/31/4

Qualification Criteria for Bidder:-

SR. No. Criteria Specific Requirements Documents Required

SR. No.	Criteria	Specific Requirements	Documents Required
1	Applicant Entity	Legal entities duly registered under the companies Act 1956/2013, or Public/Semi-public entities which are financially autonomous. Entities registered under equivalent law/act in foreign countries may participate. However, they will need to be registered in India. If Selected for this project's implementation.	Certificates of Incorporation

2	No Barring Certificate	Any Entity which has been barred, by any Public/Semi-public agency/Central/State/ Local Government, and the bar subsists as on the date of application would not be eligible either individually or as member of a consortium.	Undertaking by the authorized signatory as will as members of consortium.
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How to Apply:

Interested to applicants who meet the pre-qualification criteria may furnish their Expression of Interest with all the necessary documents in a sealed cover along with the covering letter duly signed by an authorized signatory are requested to submit EoI proposal no later than 22.03.2021. Applications received after the prescribed date will not be considered for short listing. The supply will be ensured within 7 days from the acceptance of EoI.

The request for Expression of Interest has to be sent to the following address:-

Disclaimer:

1. This is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering procedure will be applied to selected firms. Prequalified and found capable of executing the project.

2. Only shortlisted firms will be contacted for the tender process.

3. Nothing in the advertisements shall be construed to be a commitment and does not guarantee to proceed further than the EoI, this invitation for EoI being neither an agreement nor an offer for award of work.

PRDH/1042/11/3/2021/2192/31/4

DISCLAIMER

"The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN Rupees WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL**

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HAFED	PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERIENCED LABOUR CONTRACTOR FIRMS/COMPANIES/ COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR LOADING / UNLOADING AND HANDLING OF FOOD GRAINS BELONGING TO FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA IN GODOWNS AND CAP STOREAGE.	13.03.2021 24.03.2021	AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS	www.hafed.gov.in	01722590520 hafed@hry.nic.in
2	HSVP PANCHKULA	PROVIDING 3'NOS: 200 KVA TRANSFORMER AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN HOUSING BOARD & SEC-4/U/E KURUKSHETRA. (INCLUDING ONE YEAR FREE MTC/ DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE OF COST) +2 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 25.03.2021	36.20 LACS	www.hsvphy.org.in	+91842799660
3	CDLU SIRSA	UPGRADATION OF STREETLIGHT SYSTEM AT CDLU SIRSA (RE-CALLED) + THREE WORKS	04.03.2021 18.03.2021	10.61 LACS	www.cdlu.ac.in	constrocdlu@gmail.com
4	SHRI VISHWAKARMA SKILL UNIVERSITY	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR LAB	16.03.2021 15.04.2021	02% of tender value	www.svsu.ac.in	0124-2746800 registrar@svsu.ac.in

PRDH/13/2021/80/2207/1/31/4

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

COFMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS)

Railway Offices Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002, INDIA

Telefax : 91-11-23370493, E-mail ID : cpmfly@cofmow.railnet.gov.in

An ISO 9001 Organization

E-WORKS TENDER NOTICE No. COFMOW/2021/PMC (WT-17A) dated 12.03.2021

E-tenders in Two Packets are invited by CAO/Projects, Central Organization for Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW), for and on behalf of the President of India for the execution of the following work:-

Name of work : Project Management Consultancy for Projects at Matunga and other Railway Sites.

Approx. cost of work (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Cost of tender documents (In Rs.)	Period of completion of work	Tender Submission date and time
2,59,74,799.56	0 (However, Bid Security declaration as required has to be submitted by the bidder. Bids without this declaration shall be rejected summarily)	0	30 Months+ defect liability period	12.04.2021 at 15.00 hrs.

1.0 Scope of Work

(i) Main scope of work shall be providing consultancy services for smooth execution of project, day-to-day progress updates, inspection of materials, recording measurements of projects work.

70 killed in cross-border firing since Art 370 abrogation: Govt

31 civilians, 39 security men among dead, govt informs Lok Sabha

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Sharing details of the security situation on the Line of Control (LoC) and the international border in Jammu and Kashmir, the government today informed the Lok Sabha that 31 civilians and 39 security personnel had been killed in cross-border firing and ceasefire violations since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

Responding to a question in the lower house of Parliament, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home G Kishan Reddy said incidents of ceasefire violations and cross-border firings by Pak-

'NO INFO ON CHAT LEAK'

- The government claimed it had no information on the leak of WhatsApp chat related to sensitive information, including scrapping of Article 370
- The issue had surfaced during the investigation of the TRP scam by the Mumbai Police



BUNKERS TO BE BUILT

14,460 bunkers have been sanctioned to provide protection to the people living in areas close to the border. Of these, 7,856 bunkers have already been constructed. — Kishan Reddy, UNION MINISTER OF STATE

istan along the Line of Control and the international border in J&K had been reported for decades. Security forces respond with immediate and effective retaliation, he said. "Thirty-one civilians were killed and 39 security force personnel were mar-

tyred in such incidents from August 5, 2019 to February 28, 2021," the minister said.

According to the Union Minister of State, the Central Government had sanctioned construction of 14,460 bunkers (1,431 community bunkers and 13,029 individual ones) to

provide protection to the people living in areas close to the border and to safeguard human lives in the event of cross-border firing.

Out of these, 7,856 bunkers have already been constructed in the border areas of the Union Territory, he added.

32.31 lakh people given domicile certificates

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

The government today said a total of 32.31 lakh people in J&K had been given domicile certificates while 2.15 lakh applications have been rejected.

In response to a written question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said,

as per the information provided by the J&K government, a total of 35,44,938 applications for issuance of domicile certificates had been received as on December 31, 2020, out of which 32,31,353 applicants got domicile certificates. He went on to add that 2,15,438 applications had been rejected.

According to Reddy, Rule 5 of the J&K Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020 mandates certain documents to be annexed with the application. — TNS

Pak intruder shot along IB in Samba

JAMMU, MARCH 16

A Pakistani intruder was gunned down by the BSF along the International Border (IB) in Samba district on Tuesday. This is the third such incident since November last year, a BSF spokesperson said.

The incident took place in Ramgarh sector. "At about 3.55 pm, BSF troops observed suspicious movement of an intruder aggressively moving towards wild growth (sarkanda) while approaching fence from the side of Pakistani village Lehri Kalan and crossing the IB into the Indian territory between Border Post No 12/5 and 12/6. BSF men challenged him but he tried to escape into the Pakistan territory after which he was fired upon," the spokesperson said.

The body has been handed over to the Ramgarh police station. Officials said the deceased was in possession of Rs 200 in Pakistani currency and his physical appearance suggested that he was not mentally fit.

His body is likely to be handed over to Pakistani rangers at a flag meeting. — PTI

THIRD SUCH CASE IN FOUR MONTHS

- According to the BSF, this is the third such incident since November last year.
- The slain man tried to infiltrate from Pakistan's Lehri Kalan village but tried to flee when spotted by BSF men.
- His appearance suggested that he was not mentally fit, officials said



2 Covid deaths, 97 new cases

SRINAGAR, MARCH 16

J&K on Tuesday recorded 97 fresh Covid cases that pushed its infection tally to 1,27,831, while two more deaths linked to the virus raised the toll to 1,972 in the UT, officials said.

Nineteen of the fresh cases are from Jammu and 78 from Kashmir. The officials said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 53 new cases, followed by 15 in Jammu district.

While eight districts did not report any fresh cases, 10 others had cases in single digits. The number of active cases stands at 937 in the UT while 1,24,882 patients have recovered from the infection so far, officials said. — PTI

'Famine-like situation'...

BJP nominee quits RS

Might have faced disqualification

- Swapna Dasgupta has been named BJP candidate for the West Bengal's Tarakeswar constituency
- Had he not resigned from the Rajya Sabha, he could have faced disqualification from the House

Tarakeswar seat was questioned by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra. The Congress also raised the issue with Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu. — TNS

Dasgupta's candidature for

Pb surpasses...

Maharashtra saw the highest daily cases at 15,051; Punjab 1,818 and Kerala 1,054. TN, MP, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana are also beginning to see surges.

Total infections have reached 1,14,09,831 with toll touching 1,58,856 after 131 fatalities in a day.

In good signs, India had delivered 3.29 crore vaccine doses as of today and yesterday saw the highest single day vaccinations with over 30 lakh doses administered.

Active cases stand at 2,23,432 — 1.96% of all infections.

PM's Principal Adviser...

In September 2019, Sinha was made Principal Adviser to the PM. Sinha's appointment was concurrent to the term of PM Modi or until further announcement, whichever was earlier. Sinha served as Union Cabinet Secretary from June 13, 2015, till 2019.

He was previously Secretary, Ministry of Power, and also Secretary, Shipping. Earlier, he held several important posts in the Union Gov-

ernment and the state of Uttar Pradesh.

With Sinha's exit, speculation is rife within power corridors over the senior administrator's future role.

Sources recall how Nripendra Misra had similarly sought to be relieved in August 2019 and he returned in February 2020 as chairman of a committee set up for the construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya. — TNS

RS nod to abortion Bill...

Contraceptive failure accepted as legal reason for abortion

the mother's identity except to an authorised person.

Demands for changes to the abortion law had intensified after a Chandigarh-based minor, raped for months by her maternal uncle, delivered a baby in August 2017. The 10-year-old underwent C-section after the SC rejected her request for abortion.

The Bill accepts "failure of contraceptive" as a legal reason for abortion in cases of unmarried women. Such a condition is presently allowed only for married women.

"The amendments have been made keeping global practices in mind. The law will preserve the dignity of women," said Harsh Vardhan.

Bank sale not to hit jobs, Sitharaman allays fears

"Interests of workers of banks that are likely to be privatised will be protected. Whether their salaries or scale or pension, all will be taken care of," she assured.

The strike will be followed by

a two-day strike by insurance sector employees. Trade union leaders are now in talks with farmer unions and transporters for a nationwide bandh towards the month-end.

Sitharaman said the finan-

cial sector had been included in the four areas where the presence of public sector would remain. The government had earlier said the presence of public sector enterprises in these sectors

would be minimal. "Not all banks are going to be privatised," she said. Sitharaman also announced the decision to set up a Development Finance Institution to help raise long-term funds.

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 6/PWSSD MANSA DATED: 15.03.2021

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

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Pb, W/S & Sew, Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pb, W/S & Sew Divn., Mansa invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of Document/Tender processing Fee	Period of Completion	Approx. value of the work
1.	DNIT for Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage Treatment Plant of 14 MLD Capacity (MBBR Technology) at Mansa for 12 Months Period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022	Rs. 83790/-	Rs. 1000/- + Taxes as applicable	12 months	Lump sum
2.	DNIT for Operation and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plant of 6.50 MLD Capacity (MBBR Technology) at Budhlada for 12 Months Period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022	Rs. 60320/-	Rs. 1000/- + Taxes as applicable	12 months	Lump sum

2. Important dates are as under:-

- i) Period of availability of tender online shall be : From 15.03.2021 to 5:00 p.m.
- ii) Last Date & Time for online submission of bid shall be : 05.04.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.
- iii) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid : 06.04.2021 at 12:00 Noon

Note: (i) The tender documents can be downloaded from website <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>, for detail terms and conditions refer website <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>

(ii) If any corrigendum issued will be loaded & seen at website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sew. Divn., Mansa.

DPR/Pb/2627

Government of Punjab

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB

TENDER NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB INVITES ONLINE BID FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO NO. WORK (Under PRWSIP-II Sub Component 1A (I)/JMM:-

- Providing & Installing 200mm i/d straight Tubewell with Reverse Rotary Rig, up to 270 mtr. depth below ground level for Water Supply Scheme Kandala bifurcation from existing Water Supply Scheme Dharangarh, Block Kharar, District SAS Nagar, Package-1
- Providing & Installing, Laying, Distribution Network System, Installation of Pumping Machinery, Household Connections, Repair of Existing Pump Chamber and UGSR, Environmental Works and other contingent works thereto for Water Supply Scheme Kandala, Bifurcation from existing Water Supply Scheme Dharangarh, Block Kharar, Distt. SAS Nagar Package-2.

Closing Date and Time: 30.03.2021

For details logon to:- <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- Any corrigendum to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Division No. 3, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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

E-Tendering Notice No. 30/SPL Dated 16.03.2021

Secure online submission of tenders

On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, e-tenders on work order basis are hereby invited through our website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from approved and eligible L&C Societies of Punjab Govt. registered with B&R Dept. and Contractors registered with Water Resources Department as details given below. Cost of tender for the work is Rs. 500/- Head of Account 8443 Civil Deposit.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in lacs)
1.	Channelization of Bahadurgarh Drain in between RD 0-6700 Passing through Urban Estate Phase-IV of Patiala City.	56.72	0.57 1.14

Important Dates/Time

Description	Date	Time
Date of start of Sale of tender	16.03.2021	05:00 P.M.
Date of Close of sale of Tender	30.03.2021	10:00 A.M.
Date of Close of Bid	30.03.2021	11:00 A.M.
Date of opening of Technical Bid	30.03.2021	12:30 P.M.
Date of opening of Financial Bid	31.03.2021	10:00 A.M.

- All tendering process such as sale of tender documents, deposit of Earnest Money and submission of bid document shall be carried out online through our website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- For any enquiry of the above contact 0175-2228272 or through the email-id eedrainage@gmail.com
- Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published on website only.
- Tender is being called after getting technical sanction from the competent authority; however the tenders for the said works will be opened only after receiving the Administrative Approval/Funds.

Sd/- (Ramandeep Singh Bains), Executive Engineer, Patiala Drainage Division, Patiala. eedrainage@gmail.com Mobile No. 988008800

DPR/Pb/2640

DPR/Pb/2633

IN PARLIAMENT



Rajya Sabha nod to Bill regulating dieticians
The RS on Tuesday passed the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill to bring allied healthcare professionals such as dental hygienists, dietitians and osteopaths among others under the ambit of regulation and mandate registrations for them for maintenance of standards. TNS

Sedition law: Cong, govt engage in war of words

The Congress and Centre engaged in a war of words in the LS on Tuesday over how increasing number of people were being booked for sedition. The Congress alleged that the Sedition Act was being misused to silence critics. The government reminded the Congress of the misuse of the now repealed Maintenance of Internal Security Act during the Emergency. TNS

Will never privatise Railways, says Goyal

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said in the Lok Sabha that the Railways would never be privatised, but private investment would be encouraged. The government would spend Rs 2,262 crore on railway projects in 2021-22. TNS

Apex court launches e-copying software

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Months after making available translations of its verdicts in Indian languages to litigants, the Supreme Court has launched a web-based e-copying software to facilitate "doorstep and contactless" delivery of certified copies of its judgments and proceedings.

The top court on Tuesday announced that now, it will not be necessary for stakeholders to physically come at the counter of its Registry to apply and obtain such copies. —TNS

India, Finland look to strengthen digital ties

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

PM Narendra Modi and his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin on Tuesday announced a digital partnership in information and communications technology, future mobile technologies and digital education at a virtual summit.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the two leaders also announced a sustainability partnership involving renewable and clean energy, circular economy and sustainable mobility.

Modi on two-day visit to Bangladesh from March 26

In the summit, Modi and Marin reaffirmed their strong commitment to multilateralism, a rules-based international order and to work towards sustainable development goals and combating climate change, it said. The two also exchanged views on Covid-19. —PTI

Ex-Cong leader Chacko joins NCP



Former Congress leader PC Chacko joins NCP in presence of party chief Sharad Pawar in Delhi on Tuesday. PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

EC dancing to Shah's tune, alleges Mamata

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2021



Would not like to be put in dock for 'proximity' to any political entity: EC

"Knowing that BJP will lose the poll, Shah is plotting how Mamata can be killed, how TMC can be finished and Bengal can be grabbed," she alleged. —TNS

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Assess possibility of new law to empower CBI, panel asks govt

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

A parliamentary committee on Tuesday asked the government to assess the need for amending existing laws or bring out a new legislation to clearly define the mandate of the CBI and vest more power in it.

The recommendation came after the agency apprised the panel that its investigations were impeded by the withdrawal of "general consent"

seen that out of 232 sanctioned posts in the department, 91 posts are lying vacant. In Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan, 26 of the 75 sanctioned posts are lying vacant. Even in official languages wing, 56 of the 154 sanctioned posts were vacant till December 31, 2020. Having large vacancies impedes the smooth and efficient functioning of the organisation," the committee said, adding that legislation is one of the instruments of articulating the policy of the government.

Bats for lowering juvenile delinquency age from 18 to 16 years

by states, mainly those ruled by opposition parties.

The parliamentary committee, headed by BJP MP Bhupender Yadav, also asked the government to explore the feasibility of amending relevant laws so

Military budget projections not being met: Committee

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence has taken a serious view of how the modernisation budget allocated for the armed forces does not match the projected needs.

The committee, headed by BJP MP Jual Oram in a series of reports tabled on Tuesday, asked the government to ensure that the Ministry of Defence "should not make

any reductions while allocating budget for 'Capital Head' for any of the armed forces in the budgetary demands for the coming years".

'Capital head' provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development etc. The committee was taking into account the budgetary allocation for year 2021-2022.

It termed the allocation as a 'sharp decline' vis-à-vis projections made by the Army, Indian Air Force and Navy.



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