

VANITA US ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MAKES HISTORY WORLD

S&P FLAGS SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT OF CURBS ON INDIAN ECONOMY BUSINESS

PM FOR CONCRETE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE BACK PAGE

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FRIDAY | 23 APRIL 2021

'Patients dying' Delhi hospitals raise alarm; fresh cases scale past 3 lakh, highest globally

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A major health emergency loomed over the national Capital on Thursday with several hospitals reporting exhaustion of medical oxygen. Health institutes, including Apollo, Fortis, Sir Ganga Ram and Shanti Mukund, sent an SOS to the government, forcing PM Narendra Modi to call an urgent review meeting.

Amid a worsening crisis on a day when India logged 3,14,835 cases, the highest for any country in 24 hours, the PM announced cancellation of rallies in West Bengal. He said he would conduct Covid management meetings in the Capital tomorrow, including one with oxygen producers.

Though the Centre invoked the Disaster Management Act to ensure uninterrupted transport of oxygen, hospitals continued to report how states were blocking tankers midway.

SK Sagar, CEO of Shanti Mukund Hospital, broke down while speaking about the crisis. "The situation is deplorable. Patients will die. We have no oxygen. We are asking doctors to discharge those who can be discharged. We have only two hours of oxygen left."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



GRIM REALITY: Family members of patients wait outside an oxygen refill centre in New Delhi. PTI

OZ TO CUT FLIGHTS FROM INDIA BY 30%

Melbourne: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Thursday announced a 30 per cent reduction in flights coming from high-risk Covid-19 nations like India.

UK AIRPORT REFUSES EXTRA FLIGHTS FROM INDIA

London: The Heathrow Airport in London on Thursday declined requests from at least four international aircraft carriers to land eight extra flights from India.

UAE TRAVEL BAN

Dubai: The UAE has banned travel from India for 10 days. The ban will come into effect from 11.59 pm on Saturday.



A Covid patient waits for bed at LNJP Hospital, New Delhi. MR BHUI
CAN'T TURN AWAY VETERANS, ARMY STATIONS TOLD BACK PAGE

18+ CAN REGISTER FOR JAB FROM APRIL 28

Registration for vaccination against Covid-19 for those aged above 18 will begin on CoWIN platform and Aarogya Setu from April 28, officials said. The inoculation process and documents to be submitted for the jab remain the same as before.

WHY THREE RATES?

How can a vaccine manufactured by the same company have three prices? How can the Centre permit such brazen profiteering?

Sonia Gandhi, CONG. PRES.

SC wants national plan to tackle Covid crisis

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Describing the Covid situation as "grim", the Supreme Court on Thursday issued notices to the Centre, states, UTs and others on issues relating to pandemic management, particularly supply of oxygen and essential drugs.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde said, "We expect the Central Government to place before this court a national plan for dealing with the above services and supplies during the pandemic."

The top court asked the Centre, states and UTs and the parties who had approached various high courts to explain why uniform orders could not be passed in relation to supply of oxygen and essential drugs, method and manner of vaccination, and declaration of lockdown.

"We want the power to stamp lockdown to be with states. It should not be a judicial decision," the Bench said. Appointing senior advo-

SUO MOTU NOTICE

The SC has asked Centre to spell a national plan for dealing with Covid-related issues, mainly supply of oxygen and essential drugs

On Friday, it will hear a suo motu case related to Covid management in the country

The court says hearing by six different HCs on pandemic issues may create confusion



SC TO HEAR VEDANTA PLEA ON STERILITE PLANT

cate Harish Salve as amicus curiae to assist it, the Bench posted the matter for Friday.

Noting that certain degree of panic has been generated as people sought relief from high courts, it said the orders passed by them "may accelerate and prioritise the services to a certain set of people"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

EDIT: A NATIONAL PLAN

HC seeks info on Hry dist nodal bodies in 24 hrs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today set a 24-hour deadline for the Haryana Government to inform the Bench whether a coordinating body was available in each district for the people to approach in case of crisis.

HRY SHOPS TO SHUT AT 6 PM

Haryana also undertook to inform the High Court Bench whether the designated toll-free helpline number (1075) was operational.

As the case came up for resumed hearing, the court observed: "Though a state-level committee is already in existence in Haryana, a question has arisen whether nodal agency is available in every district for people to approach in case of any emergency." **INSIDE**

Plea in SC for probe into Nashik mishap

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking an independent judicial inquiry into the oxygen leak incident in a Nashik hospital that killed 24 patients. The PIL filed by NGO "Save Them India Foundation" has sought setting up of a three-member inquiry commission under the chairmanship of a retired apex court judge. — PTI

ICMR to study vax delivery via drones

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The government today said the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), in association with Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), had given permission to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to conduct a feasibility study on using drones to deliver Covid-19 vaccine. — TNS

IN BRIEF

RCF sends 1,210 kg O₂ to Asr hospital

KAPURTHALA: The Rail Coach Factory (RCF) here has supplied 1,210 kg liquid oxygen from its plant to Guru Nanak Medical College and Hospital, Amritsar, through a gas supplying firm. **INSIDE**

Thief abandons vax vials in Haryana

JIND: A thief who stole 1,710 vials of Covishield and Covaxin from the storeroom of the Civil Hospital here, abandoned the bagful of vaccines at a tea stall outside Jind Civil Lines police station on Thursday. **INSIDE**

Maha orders probe against Param Bir

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Home Department has ordered an inquiry against former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh over corruption allegations against him. — PTI

5 die as train rams into vehicles in UP

SHAHJAHANPUR (UP): Five persons were killed and one person was injured after the Lucknow-Chandigarh Express ramed into some vehicles at a manned level-crossing here on Thursday, the police said. — PTI

Over 200 Sikh pilgrims test +ve on return from Pakistan

AMRITSAR, APRIL 22

Over 200 Punjab pilgrims who went to Pakistan to celebrate Baisakhi tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday. They underwent the mandatory rapid antigen test on their arrival at the Integrated Check Post, Attari. As they were all asymptomatic, they were advised home-quarantine.

Some of the pilgrims, however, confronted the health staff after their reports came positive for the infection, said Civil Surgeon Charanjit Singh.

High drama prevailed at the ICP as a few of them tore the test reports, saying that when they left for Pakistan their reports were negative.

Some pilgrims even took away the official records and forced the health staff to leave their counters at the Attari border, Singh said.

The Sikh jatha of 815 pilgrims, sponsored by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, had gone to Pakistan on April 12 to celebrate Baisakhi.

Meanwhile, SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur appealed to the pilgrims who tested positive to follow the health guidelines and isolate themselves in their homes.



Sikh pilgrims return from Pakistan after celebrating Baisakhi, at the Wagah border in Amritsar on Thursday. VISHAL KUMAR

The Pakistan High Commission had granted the pilgrims a 10-day visa and they were allowed to visit various Sikh shrines, besides attending the main event at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal on April 14.

They also visited Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur, on April 19 and took out a nagar kirtan from Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal district to Zero Line connecting Dera Baba Nanak on the Indian side. — TNS

EDIT: VIRUS RAVAGING PUNJAB

Free vax for 18-45 age group in Pb hospitals

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Chief Minister on Thursday announced that for the inoculation of the 18-45 years age group, vaccines would be supplied free of cost to all government healthcare facilities in the state. In view of the limited supplies, he said an expert group, that would include eminent virologist Dr Gagandeep Kang as one of the members, would suggest a prioritisation strategy. **INSIDE**

Can't restrict oxygen transport: MHA to states

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Invoking the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Centre on Thursday directed all state governments and UT administrations to ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen across the country.

It said: "No restriction shall be imposed on the movement of medical oxygen between the states. Transport officials shall be instructed to allow free interstate movement of such vehicles. No authority shall attach the oxygen carrying vehicles passing through the

Dist admn, police heads to be 'personally liable'



A guard pastes a "no bed" notice outside a hospital in Prayagraj. PTI

IN HRY, TRUCK WITH OXYGEN MISSING, CASE FILED

Panipat: A truck filled with medical oxygen went missing while on its way to Sirsa from the Air Liquid Naphtha Cracker Complex here on Wednesday evening. A case has been filed. **TNS**

districts or areas for making supplies specific to any particular district or area."

The directive under the stringent Act was issued by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla in the wake of reports that some states blocked supply of medical oxygen to other states amid a sudden spike in Covid cases. Those found violating the order will face punishment up to one year of jail or fine or both.

Bhalla said the district administrative and police heads would be "personally liable" for implementation of the directives. — TNS

'Anti-national' acts by J&K staff under lens

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a special task force (STF) to scrutinise cases of its employees allegedly found involved in "anti-national" activities for which it will engage with members of the Terror Monitoring Group (TMG) and seek assistance of other agencies.

Additional Director-General of the Crime Investigation Department RR Swain will head the STF. The other mem-

bers will include representatives of the Home Department, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the department of the employee under investigation.

"On several occasions during investigations, the J&K Police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have found instances where government officials were allegedly involved in terror or separatist activities," said a senior official. — TNS

At Singhu, farmers to clear part of NH-44

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, APRIL 22

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) today announced to remove barricades on one side of National Highway-44 at the Singhu border to make way for vehicles carrying oxygen and ambulances. This was decided following a meeting with officials of the district administration.

Farmers' leaders Darshan Pal Singh, Gurnam Singh Charuni and others met officiating DC-cum-ADC Ashok Kumar Bansal, Jashandeep Singh Randhawa, SP Shashi Vasundhara, SDM, and Civil Surgeon Dr Jaswant Singh Punia at the PWD rest house in Rai. Bansal said the SKM leaders agreed on unhin-

dered passage to emergency vehicles as well as vaccination of farmers. "The leaders said if any farmer wanted to vaccinate himself, the SKM would not stop him," he added.

In a statement later, the SKM said the farmers would lend all help to the administration to fight the Covid pandemic. "The SKM and the protesting farmers are committed to causing the least inconvenience to the citizens. The BJP and the government have without any basis accused the protesting farmers of obstructing oxygen supply to Delhi. In fact, it is the police that have been directing vehicles to the protest sites instead of the actual route," alleged Darshan Pal Singh.



Samyukt Kisan Morcha members at a meeting with govt officials.

To evade tax barriers, heavy vehicles use rural roads in Kasauli area

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, APRIL 22

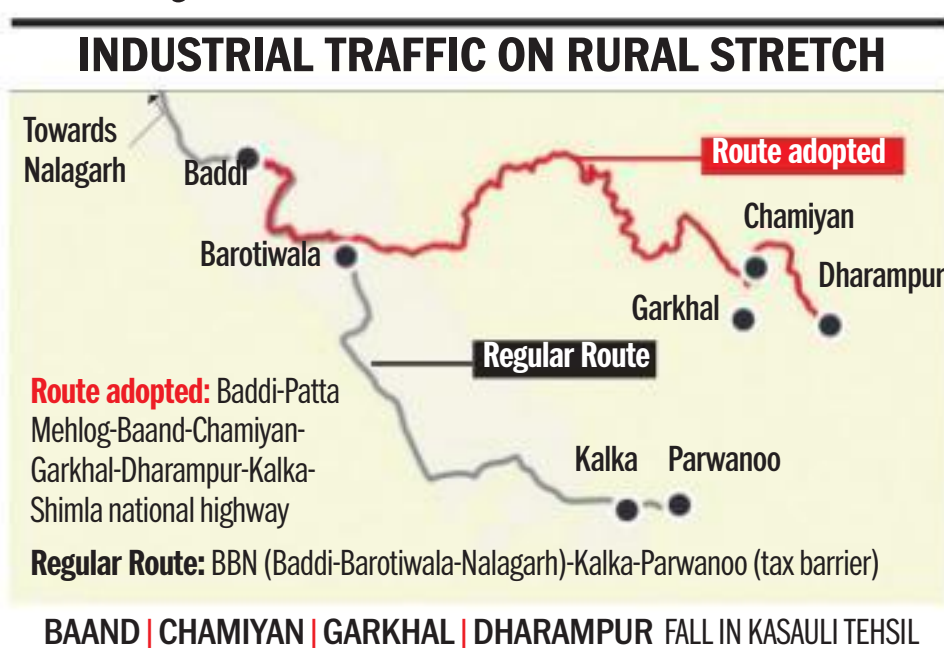
In a bid to evade taxes, the multi-axle vehicles carrying tonnes of industrial goods, especially from the steel units in Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) industrial hub, are using the narrow village roads of Kasauli tehsil.

Though the e-way bills are compulsory for vehicles carrying industrial goods, trucks are evading tax payment by

using village routes which have no excise and taxation barriers. These trucks usually start their journey after 10:30 pm from the BBN hub when there is little fear of checking.

"On the regular route, a vehicle has to pass through the excise barrier at Parwanoo, but these trucks use escape routes to evade tax," said an excise official.

Villagers in the affected areas are up in arms over the use of rural roads as an indus-



BAAND | CHAMIYAN | GARKHAL | DHARAMPUR FALL IN KASAU LI TEHSIL

trial corridor. They have been complaining about trucks descending on the Patta Mehlog-Kasauli road after midnight on a daily basis. The village roads are neither designed to withstand such heavy load nor are repaired on a regular basis.

"A steep road from Baand to Chamiyan village has been the worst-hit," a local resident said, adding that these vehicles also face difficulty negotiating the narrow Garkhal

junction where five roads meet. There are traffic jams too when several trucks cross the area. The Solan DC said the police had been directed to ensure that multi-axle trucks did not ply on rural roads leading to Kasauli.

The DC, State Taxes and Excise, said: "Staff will be deputed to check these trucks and see if there is evasion of tax as this is not a regular route used by trucks carrying industrial goods."

Farmers block NH over gunny bag crunch

Threaten to intensify protest if adequate arrangements not made in mandis to speed up procurement

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, APRIL 22

Scores of farmers under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Dakonda) today protested and blocked the Bathinda-Barnala National Highway near Kararwala village in the Rampura Phul area of the district.

Ruing an acute shortage of 'bardana' (gunny bags) in the mandi, protesters raised slogans against the state government, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Minister of Food and Civil Supplies Bharat Bhushan Ashu. They said the government was making tall claims of arrangements for procurement of wheat in the mandis, but the ground reality painted a different picture.

Balwinder Singh Jethuke, block president, BKU (Dakonda), said: "There is an acute shortage of bardana in mandis. As a result, procurement is getting delayed. Our



Farmers protest on the Bathinda-Barnala National Highway near Kararwala village on Thursday. PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

produce is lying in mandis vulnerable to inclement weather conditions. We will intensify our protest if the

government does not make arrangements of providing bardana in mandis. We do not want to hassle the com-

muters but we are helpless."

Farmers in many mandis have been claiming that wheat procurement is either

delayed or not taking place at all. SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal today visited different mandis in the district to

take stock of arrangements. After listening to farmers' grievances, he said: "The state government has failed miserably in ensuring smooth procurement of wheat. For past over two weeks, farmers have been guarding their produce in mandis. There are heaps of wheat lying in mandis and due to tardy lifting and shortage of bardana, farmers and arhtiyas are suffering." Sukhbir asked the district administration and mandi board officials to ensure procurement at the earliest or else the SAD would start an agitation. Pratyush Kumar Sinha, Divisional Manager, FCI said, "We are procuring wheat irrespective of varieties in mandis of Bathinda and Mansa districts. But there are some mandis where arhtiyas have denied the FCI to make procurement so we can't make purchase there."

Deputy Commissioner B Srinivasan couldn't be contacted on the issue.



Farmers protest delay in wheat procurement in Sangrur on Thursday.

10 days on, no wheat purchased in Sangrur

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, APRIL 22

With no wheat procured for the past 10 days, farmers on Thursday gheraoed the officials at the Bhutal Kalan purchase centre and raised slogans against the Punjab Government.

"My wheat produce of 11 acres has been lying here since April 12 and I have been repeatedly meeting all officials concerned, still there is no procurement. Officials are not doing their duty fairly. The produce of only a few farmers has been purchased as yet," alleged Harjeet Singh, a farmer from Bhutal.

On Thursday, when officials of Markfed reached the local grain market, farmers gheraoed them and did not allow them to start the purchase process. Farmers have been demanding to expedite the wheat purchase process as they fear more rain could increase the moisture content of their crop.

"My wheat produce of five acres has been lying here since April 9, but officials are not listening. They are only bothered about the purchased

OFFICIAL HECKLED

“There is a shortage of gunny bags as even after promising to reuse the old ones, arhtiyas are not cooperating. I came here to solve the problems of farmers, but they are not allowing me to start the work.

Amrit Kaur, MARKFED INSPECTOR

wheat. We are already facing huge losses and request the government to take quick action for the procurement of our wheat," said Chamkaur Singh, another farmer.

Though many farmers admitted that the officials concerned provided them tarpaulin to cover their wheat produce during rain, but the delay in the purchase has angered them. "There is a shortage of gunny bags as even after promising to reuse the old ones, arhtiyas are not cooperating. I came here to solve the problems of farmers, but they are not allowing me to start the work," Amrit Kaur, inspector, Markfed.



A labourer removes rainwater at a mandi in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Help desks at mandis

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

In a bid to facilitate farmers facing hardship on account of introduction of the direct benefit transfer (DBT) system for the ongoing rabi marketing season, the Punjab Mandi Board has set up 'Farmer Help Desks' at grain markets across the state for online registration on the new portal for making payments directly into their bank accounts.

Board chairman Lal Singh said the rationale behind the move was to ensure timely payment to farmers into their bank accounts expeditiously. Of the 12 lakh farmers, nearly six lakh had already uploaded the requisite documents on portal <https://anaa-jkharid.in/farmerRegistrations/farmerRegistrations>.

The chairman said the counters would help guide/assist farmers and

To assist in DBT portal registration

arhtiyas for registration on the portal. Efforts were on to help the remaining farmers for registration as the majority of them were not tech savvy, he said. The Centre has implemented the DBT for crops procured on MSP and the payment thereof would be credited directly to the bank accounts of farmers.

So far 64.25 LMT wheat had arrived in mandis, as against 17.56 LMT during the corresponding period last year. Of this, 59.78 LMT had been procured across the state.

Sangrur district led in arrival with 7.89 LMT, followed by Patiala and Ludhiana with 6.30 LMT and 5.09 LMT, respectively. As many as 10.59 lakh passes had been given to farmers through arhtiyas by the board.

Capt Adviser faces protesters' fury

FATEHGARH SAHIB, APRIL 22

Farmers today gheraoed Bharat Inder Singh Chahal, the Adviser to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, for hours at Roorkee village on the Patiala-Sirhind highway.

Led by Harnek Singh Bhal-majra, district president, Krantikari Kisan Union, farmers had planned to stage a dharna and disrupt traffic on the highway to protest the non-availability of gunny bags and poor arrangements in the grain markets for procurement. On noticing a VIP car with the CM's Adviser coming from Patiala, farmers intercepted it and started raising slogans against the government.

Chahal talked to the farmers and assured them of arranging



CM's Adviser Bharat Inder Singh Chahal gheraoed by farmers on the Patiala-Sirhind road. TRIBUNE PHOTO

gunny bags. However, the farmers continued to argue with him and said they would not allow him to leave until arrangements were made. The Fatehgarh SDM and the DSP rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the agitating farmers.

Even the ADC and the SP also rushed to spot to ease the situation, but to no avail.

Bhalmajra said they were forced to protest as the government had failed to make proper arrangements for procurement. He said the protest

was the only way out to force the government to provide gunny bags. He said if the situation did not improve they would gherao the CM's residence also. The gherao of Chahal continued till the filling of the report. — OC

Sack Ashu, says AAP

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has demanded the immediate resignation of Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu over the continuing smuggling of wheat from other states, non-procurement of produce and shortage of gunny bags (bardana) in the state mandis.

AAP MLA and kisan wing president Kultar Singh Sandhwan alleged Ashu had failed in his responsibilities as minister and CM Capt Amarinder Singh should dismiss him.

Sandhwan said of the total crop reaching state mandis, 60 per cent was still to be procured



Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu

for the want of gunny bags. Sandhwan alleged the shortage of gunny bags seemed to be a pretence for buying bags from factories of people owing allegiance to the ruling party. He said truckloads of wheat were being smuggled into Punjab every day, causing economic loss to farmers. — TNS

CM to blame for mismanagement: SAD

MOGA, APRIL 22

Blaming Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh for the mismanagement and chaos in mandis, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal alleged that farmers were being forced to camp at the procurement centres for days due to the state's inability to arrange gunny bags.

Sukhbir visited the Goniana Mandi, Goniana Kalan, Maluka, Kotha Guru and Bhagta Bhaikhe mandis in Bathinda district and the Asia's largest grain market in Moga and interacted with a cross section of farmers to know about their problems.



SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal visits the grain market in Moga.

He directed the SAD leaders to fan out at the procurement centres and assist the farmers to get their crop purchased at

LEAVE FARMHOUSE

“The CM needs to step out of his farmhouse and address the problems faced by farmers. He should also direct senior officers to visit all mandis and remove the shortcomings.

Sukhbir Singh Badal, SAD CHIEF

the earliest. He announced that the party would hold symbolic district-level dharnas across the state on April 24 in

front of the offices of the DCs to submit a memorandum, demanding to solve the problems being faced by farmers in the grain markets.

"Around 45 lakh metric tonne of wheat is lying in the open in mandis due to the lack of gunny bags. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu has also gone into hiding as he can't face the farmers after failing to issue timely tenders for the gunny bags." Sukhbir said farmers and arhtiyas told him that they were now being asked to arrange the gunny bags on their own. — TNS

Senaleader starts hunger strike in jail

ROPAR, APRIL 22

Shiv Sena (Hindu) president Nishant Sharma, who is lodged at Ropar district jail, has started a hunger strike, alleging he was framed in a false case by Kharar SHO Daljit Singh. He also threatened to continue the strike until action was taken against the SHO and the case against him withdrawn.

Alleges framed in false case

Sources said Sharma, reportedly a diabetic, had not taken a meal since Tuesday. He was brought to Civil Hospital today after his condition deteriorated. He was referred to PGI, Chandigarh, where he refused to cooperate with the doctors. He was sent back to the Ropar jail in the evening. On April 3, the Kharar police arrested the Sena leader and one Arvind Gautam for making a provocative speech and threats against a particular community in Jalandhar. A total of 36 persons were named in the FIR. — TNS

On mission to revive waterbodies

APARNA BANERJI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, APRIL 22

To contain the increasing forest fires in Nawanshahr and the Shivaliks, Nikhil Senger, a Nawanshahr resident, is slogging it out to revive the waterbodies. With the help of water tankers, Nikhil has revived at least 20 dried up waterbodies in the jungles.

After a forest fire in Majra on March 3, Nikhil began taking water tankers of 5,000-6,000 litres capacity to the forest to track wildlife in distress and revive waterbodies. For the past over a month, he has taken 30 to 35 water tankers in the forests of Majra, Bana, Tonsa, Bhaddi, Noorpur, Singhpur and Hajipur to rejuvenate dried-up streams, choes, ponds and other waterbodies.

"On March 3, I saw sambars and blue bulls fleeing the forest after a fire broke out. We immediately took a water tanker there. I was chased by thirsty sambars. In parched forest, animals catch the scent of water fast. I search for areas where for 4 to 5 km there are no waterbodies and build kutcha



Deer quench their thirst from a waterhole in a Nawanshahr forest; and Nikhil Senger recharges a dried up waterbody. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

HAVE RECHARGED 20 PONDS SO FAR

“Animals catch the scent of water fast. I search for areas where there are no waterbodies for 4 to 5 km and build kutcha ponds there. It takes two to three tankers to fill up a waterbody. I have recharged at least 20 so far this year. Nikhil Senger, NAWANSHAHR RESIDENT

ponds there. It takes two to three tankers to fill up one 10-foot-deep waterbody. I have filled at least 20 so far this year. About 10 to 20 years ago, there used to be incessant rains for weeks in jungles. But now jungles have dried up, leading to wild fires and posing threat to animals."

Tracking wildlife with motion-sensor cameras at Hajipur, Nikhil was astounded by results. "In a 10-day period, 1,278 animals came to the pond I created. My camera captured huge blue bulls, peacocks, sambars, wild boars among other animals visiting the kutcha pond to quench their thirst."



Nikhil first took a tanker to Singhpur forest after a wildfire in 2011. He has been accorded the title of Honorary Wildlife Warden for his extensive relief and rescue work in jungles and villages. With a body of dogooders in the Shivaliks, he now plans to buy his own tanker and start a "Water for Wildlife" service soon.

Faced pressure not to question influential persons: Former IG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

Opening up on reasons behind his resignation, former IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap said he faced pressure to avoid proceedings against influential persons who indulged in proxy litigation in their attempt to scuttle the investigation.

In an hour-long interview to a Canadian channel, the former Punjab Police officer said his investigation in the Kotkapura police firing, which the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashed earlier this month, would eventually stand the test of time.

He invoked the need to save Punjab from certain people who had destroyed the state and went to the extent of conspiring the sacrilege incidents. He referred the pressure on him was exerted through one of the members of the Special Investigation Team probing the Kotkapura firing incident.

"I was told to hold lower rank policemen responsible for the firing. I was also told that I was not mandated to

GOVT LEGAL TEAM SEEMED CONFUSED

“The government's legal team seemed confused on how to proceed. I told them the CBI had filed a closure report and the legal team must counter it. They argued with me that my information was wrong. Soon, the closure report was known to all.

Kunwar Vijay Pratap, FORMER IG



prove sacrilege incidents. The pressure tactics did not succeed as I asked the official to give me in writing, which he did not," the former IG said.

He said: "I checked up with the CM's office through one of the top officials. He said the CM had mandated the SIT shall work independently."

On the petitions against his probe, the IG said the public needed to know how a retired constable, one of the petitioners, could afford highly expen-

sive lawyers practicing in the Supreme Court. "The influential persons indulged in proxy litigation. They used someone to save themselves. Punjab will never forgive them. People will ask who paid the hefty fee to the lawyers," he said.

On SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal's statement on filing a defamation suit, he said: "I will expose them all in each hearing of the defamation case. I have much evidence."

Free vax for 18+ in govt hospitals: CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22 Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today announced that for the inoculation of the age group of 18-45 (from May 1), vaccines would be supplied free of cost in all government healthcare facilities in the state.

In view of the limited supplies of the vaccine expected initially, the CM constituted an expert group, comprising eminent virologist Dr Gagandeep Kang; Dr Jacob John, Professor of Community Health at CMC, Vellore; and Dr Rajesh Kumar, former Head, School of Public Health, PGI, Chandigarh, to suggest a strategy of prioritisation. Chairing a high-level meeting to review the Covid-19 situation, Captain Amarinder tasked the expert group to chalk out a vaccination strat-



5,456 +VE IN 24 HOURS

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Cases | 5,456 |
| Deaths | 76 |
| Critical | 38 |
| Active | 40,584 |

WORST-HIT DISTRICTS

| District | Cases | Deaths |
|-----------|-------|--------|
| SAS Nagar | 931 | 7 |
| Ludhiana | 880 | 7 |
| Amritsar | 462 | 10 |
| Patiala | 448 | 5 |
| Bathinda | 446 | 5 |

egy and submit a plan to the state government in a week.

Dr Kang, who attended the meeting as a special invitee, emphasised the need for a proper strategy to combat the second Covid wave, with geographical saturation in high caseload cities such as Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar,

Mohali and Patiala, besides prioritisation on the basis of medical need and occupational groups.

The CM was informed that the state had received four lakh more doses of Covishield vaccine from the Centre today. As these were likely to last for only three or four

more days as per the pace of the ongoing vaccination drive, he asked the Health Department to pursue with the Centre the matter of supply of more vaccines.

Referring to the reports of black marketing of anti-viral drugs like Remdesivir and Tocilizumab in the country,

the CM said the experts had given clear protocols on the use of such medicines, which must be duly publicised and followed. Health Adviser Dr KK Talwar referred to the WHO studies that have shown that Remdesivir might not have any significant impact on the mortality due to Covid.

Meanwhile, Captain Amarinder expressed concern at the reports of shortage of beds for Covid patients in various parts of the country. However, he said the current situation was comparatively better in Punjab. He directed the 104 helpline to provide 24x7 real-time information regarding the availability of Covid beds in the hospitals.

Ordering a crackdown on oxygen hoarding, he said no trader or manufacturer would be allowed to indulge in illegal hoarding.

Rail factory sends 1,210-kg oxygen to Asr hospital

KAPURTHALA, APRIL 22

Amid shortage of medical oxygen in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) here has supplied 1,210 kg of liquid oxygen from its plant to Guru Nanak Medical College and Hospital, Amritsar. The medical oxygen has been sent through a gas supplying firm.

An RCF spokesperson said: "Though the supply of liquid oxygen will impact it will prove crucial to dealing with the emergency needs of

SUPPLY CRUCIAL

Though production of coaches will be impacted, supply of liquid oxygen will prove crucial to dealing with emergency needs of Covid-19 patients.

AN RCF SPOKESPERSON

Covid-19 patients. The RCF has a 3 kilolitre liquid oxygen storage tank, used for making argomix, which is used in the manufacture of stainless steel components."

On the instructions of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, the Railways has taken several steps to overcome the shortage of oxygen in hospitals. The Railways is running "oxygen express" trains carrying liquid medical oxygen and cylinders. It has decided to build a green corridor for these special trains, which has resulted in quick supply of oxygen to the various parts of the country. — TNS



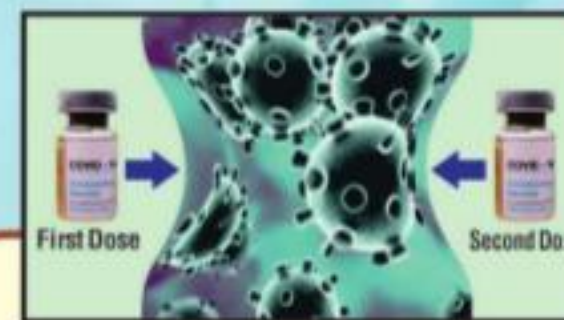
Successful Vaccination for Corona Prevention



Everyone above
18 years of age
to get vaccinated
from **1st May**



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45 years
of age and above,
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and encourage others



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Abohar short on 'Fateh' kits, vaccines

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABOHAR, APRIL 22

Amid an unprecedented Covid resurgence, 100 Covid-positive patients are waiting to get their 'Fateh' kits, which are to be used during isolation at the Subdivisional Civil Hospital or houses.

Covid section in charge Praveen Rani and Ankush Dhawan said they had informed the Senior Medical Officer (SMO) about the shortage.

3,600 doses expected soon, says SMO

SMO Dr Gagandeep Singh confirmed getting the request for urgent supply to the district administration and hopes to get it fulfilled soon. He agreed that the vaccine was also running short but 3,600 doses were expected soon.

Taking cognisance of the situation, the Congress today launched a free vaccination drive at Arorvansh dharamshala. District Youth Congress former president Sandeep Jakhar and MC Mayor Vimal Thatai said health workers inoculated 170 persons. Councillors have been told to motivate more people for vaccination.

Amid oxygen, bed shortage, NCR patients head to state

AMAN SOOD &
KARAM PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, APRIL 22

Amid reports of limited supply of medical oxygen across various states, patients from as far as Noida and Delhi are now turning to Punjab to receive Covid treatment.

With Delhi hospitals also running low on Covid beds, a number of patients from the National Capital Region (NCR) have got themselves admitted to Government Rajindra Hospital here over the past 72 hours.

Doctors at the hospital said these patients had evidently come for Covid treatment owing to the shortage of beds in the NCR. Dr RPS Sibia, in charge, Covid ward at the hospital, said most of these patients had arrived in the past three days. "They say they are here only to receive treatment. They have acquaintances in Patiala, but are residents of Delhi."

Sources said in other districts too, outside patients had given local guardians' addresses for admission here. "I came here after I tested positive in Delhi. I was in touch with my cousin in Ludhiana and he arranged for a bed here. Hopefully, oxygen will not be an issue in Punjab. The situation is getting bad



WHAT DRAWS THEM TO PATIALA

■ Patiala's Rajindra hospital still has relatively better facilities. Besides, it has enough stock of Remdesivir

■ Also there is ample availability of Covid beds with ventilator and dialysis machines, say sources

HIGHER-UPS INFORMED, WILL TREAT ALL

"I have informed higher-ups about the medical influx to Rajindra hospital. However, we will continue to treat every Covid patient — Dr Satinder Singh, CIVIL SURGEON, PATIALA

in Delhi," said a patient from the national capital.

Dr Sibia added they would extend treatment irrespective of where the patients belong. "We have been treating patients and will continue to do so. For us, all are equal."

The sources said the hospital still had relatively better facilities. Besides, it has enough stock of Remdesivir, an antiviral drug required for Covid treatment. They said availability of ample Covid beds with ventilator and dialysis machines were key fac-

tors drawing patients from other states.

It was learnt many patients from Delhi were receiving Covid treatment in private hospitals of Punjab by giving local address.

Patiala Civil Surgeon Dr Satinder Singh said: "Besides Delhi, patients are also coming from Haryana. I have informed the higher-ups about the medical influx to Rajindra hospital. However, we will continue to work for humanity and treat every Covid patient."

4 die in hour at Sriganganagar

ABOHAR/SRIGANGANAGAR, APR 22

Due to the ongoing oxygen crisis, four Covid-19 patients shifted from private hospitals to the district hospital died in Sriganganagar, 40 km from Abohar, today.

The hospital has around 135 Covid beds. Currently, 115 patients were undergoing treatment. CMO Dr Baldev Singh Chauhan said some patients from private facilities were shifted to the hospital in critical condition, of whom four died within an hour. — OC



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45 Jal ashram inmates infected

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, APRIL 22

Fortyfive inmates and five staff members of the Gandhi Vanita Ashram here tested positive on Thursday.

The infected staff members — a superintendent, a house mother, a peon, attendant and a woman police constable — are under home quarantine.

Notably, the Children's Home and Children's Home for Girls are two neighbouring facilities housed within the premises of the Gandhi Vanita Ashram. The twin home collectively houses about 150 inmates with 100 girls at the Children's Home and 50 at the Children's Home for Girls.

**Five employees
test positive too**



The Gandhi Vanita Ashram

Child Development Project Officer, Jalandhar, Garry Randhawa said, "In all, 45 girls at the Children's Home have tested positive. The

superintendent of the Children's Home for Girls was the first to get infected after which four other staff members tested positive. The infection might have been spread by the police personnel, who keep visiting there. Meanwhile, all 50 inmates of the Children's Home for Girls have tested negative."

He said, "The infected girls shall be quarantined in the halls on the ground floor. All of them are asymptomatic."

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori said, "Rest of the staff and inmates of the ashram have also been tested. The arrangements to quarantine the infected persons are being made on the premises."

Allow work from home: PCCTU

FATEHGARH SAHIB, APRIL 22

The Punjab and Chandigarh College Teachers' Union (PCCTU) has demanded that teachers should be allowed to work from home to safeguard the staff from Covid-19.

In a letter to the CM, PCCTU state president Vinay Sofat said the government should direct the Education Department to allow work from home to prevent the spread of pandemic. Prof Bikramjit Singh, president of PCCTU, Fatehgarh Sahib and Patiala districts, said at present, the teachers were conducting online classes from the colleges. — OC

**Students' problems
addressed: Secy**

Krishan Kumar has issued directions in this regard.

Kumar said the condition for transfer certificates was causing unnecessary harassment to the parents who were desirous of changing schools of their children. Therefore, all earlier instructions regarding obtaining the transfer certificate from the previous school had been waived. — TNS

Govt waives transfer certificate condition

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

To address problems faced by students and their parents, the Punjab Government has waived the condition of submission of a transfer certificate for admission.

A spokesperson of the School Education Department said it had come to the notice of the department that many students were facing difficulties in getting admissions to schools due to the transfer certificate norm. Taking the issue seriously, School Education Secretary

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MEDICAL/SURGICAL

Covid beds with ventilator and ECMO facility available. New Lifeline Hospital, Zirkarpu. 98141-04203. (CL21008508)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Swaraj Gupta w/o Amit Aggarwal r/o # 24, Sector 33-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Saloni Aggarwal. (CL21008462)

I, Prabhjeet Kaur alias Sahibjeet Kaur D/o Bhagwant Singh VPO Bhawanigarh (Sangur), have changed my name to Prabhjeet Kaur. (CL21008555)

I, Mohit Bansal son of Radhe Shyam Bansal, r/o House No. 213, Sector 7, Panchkula, Haryana 134109, have changed my minor daughter name from Summer Mohit Bansal to Summer Bansal for all purposes. (CL21008090)

I, D. B. Michael Paite S/o Late Nengkhausan Paite R/o H. No. X-1, New Teachers Colony, near Mangli Ashram, Bhadrora, Pathankot, Punjab-145001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Doubiakmang Michael Paite. (CL21008316)

I, Manoj Kumar s/o Hari Ram, H.No. 47-A, Mohinder Singh Colony Biring, Jalandhar, have changed my minor daughter's name from Devanshi to Devanshi Kumar. (CL21008335)

I, Gagandeep s/o Jagroop Singh r/o # 152, Pathrala, P.O. Pathrala, Distt. Bathinda, Punjab-151401 have changed my name to Gagandeep Singh. (CL21008340)

I, Service No. 4476426F, Rank Hav. Jai Singh s/o Sh. Kesar Ram r/o Village Bains, Post Office Bhaowal, Distt. Ropar (Punjab) declare that in my Army record my son's name wrongly mentioned as Paravjot Singh. His correct name is Prabhjot Singh. Concerned please note and correct it. (CL21008362)

I, Service No. 4476426F, Rank Hav. Jai Singh s/o Sh. Kesar Ram r/o Village Bains, Post Office Bhaowal, Distt. Ropar (Punjab), declare that in my Army record date of birth of my daughter Simranjeet Kaur wrongly mentioned as 09.04.2002. Her correct date of birth is 16.04.2002. Concerned please note and correct it. (CL21008369)

I, Subedar Mehtab Singh Army No. JC431863W Unit No. 25 Punjab c/o 56 APO r/o Village Jhela Amda Shakargarh P.O. Shaura Khurd Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot (Punjab) declare that the name of my daughter Daljeet Kaur erroneously recorded in my service record as Daljit Kaur. While her correct name is Daljeet Kaur. (CL21008543)

I, No. 13748980W, Hav. Chanchal Singh s/o Punjab Singh r/o village Khanora, PO Tundi, Tehsil Sihintla/Bhatiyat Distt. Chamba (HP). Declare that my wife's and son's name in my Army record wrongly entered as Suraksha Kumari & Mohit Thakur respectively. Whereas my wife's correct name is Suraksha Devi and my son's correct name is Vipul Thakur. Concerned note it. (CL21008549)

I, Balwinder Kaur Sandhu w/o Devindra Pal Singh Sandhu r/o R-106 Sigal Vihar, Sector 49, Gurgaon - 122018, Haryana, India and now residing at 126 Lichen Court, Fremont-94538, California, USA, holder of India Passport No. J6694685 issued at Delhi on April 06, 2011, my passport expired on 05.04.2021, bears the name of mine as Balwinder Sandhu. This is to categorically state that my correct name is Balwinder Kaur Sandhu vide affidavit dated April 17, 2021 sworn before notary Nita Shaw, commission # 2325507 Fremont subject to the approval of Indian embassy in USA. (CL21007763)

COURT NOTICE

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sh. Mohit Bansal
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court,
Ludhiana.
Jasvir Kaur
Versus
Vikram Rajpal
CNR No.
PBLD01-019724-2018
Next Date:- 07.05.2021
Publication issued to:
Vikram Rajpal
Father:- Lekh Raj Rajpal
R/o H.No. 3, New Garden
Colony, Jalandhar.

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 07.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 26.02.2021.

Sd/- (Mohit Bansal)
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court, Ludhiana.
CL20103573

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529 sq. yards corner side park in Sec. 36, Chandigarh only FF for sale 97017-00001. (CL21007669)

8 marla facing park floors in Sec. 20A, Chandigarh for sale. 97017-00001. (CL21007670)

LOST & FOUND

I, Pavitdeep Singh s/o Dr. Gurdip Singh, Hosie No. 404, Street No. 7, Ghuman Nagar, Patiala. Lost 2 old Registries (1) Gurfateh Singh Sandhu s/o Satinder Singh Sandhu, Vaska No. 1625 dated 06.07.2009. (2) Sanjiv Soori s/o Satish Chandra Soori Vaska No. 3392 Dated 23.09.2005 and DDR No. 132980/ 2021 dated 20.04.2021. If found, Contact me-98710-13902. (CL21008551)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sukhwinder Singh,
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Phagwara.

Suman Chaddha W/o Sukhchain Chaddha R/o 390 Guru Hargobind Nagar Phagwara through attorney Ashwani Chaddha S/o Sukhchain Chaddha. ...Applicant

Versus

1. Kuldeep Singh 2. Narinder Singh both sons of Balbir Singh 3. Manjit Kaur W/o Balbir Singh, all resident of Village Chiheru, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala. ...Respondent

CNR No. PBKPA0-000300-2020
Next Date: 07.05.2021

Application for Ejectment of the respondent U/S 13 of East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act. Publication issued to: Respondents Nos. 1 to 3

1. Kuldeep Singh
2. Narinder Singh both sons of Balbir Singh

3. Manjit Kaur W/o Balbir Singh, all resident of Village Chiheru, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala.

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 07.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=kapurthala

Dated, this day of 15.03.2021.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Phagwara.

CL21008234

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

(Succession Case)

In the Court of
Monika Lamba
Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Kapurthala.

Daljit Kaur
Vs.

General Public
CNR No.:

PBKPO2-000683-2020

Next Date: 07.05.2021

Petition U/S 372 of Indian Succession Act qua the Estate of deceased Satpal Singh s/o Karnail Singh

Notice to:
Jagjit Singh

Father:- Satpal Singh
Village Begowal, Tehsil Bholath,
Kapurthala at present r/o 11616,
Atlantic Ave Floor 2S Richmond
Hill NY 11419 1204.

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

For details login to:
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=kapurthala

Dated, this day of 22.04.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Kapurthala.

CL21008319

In the Court of

Ms. Iram Hasan,
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Panchkula.

Next date, purpose of case, orders and judgements as well as other case information is available on

http://ecourts.gov.in

CNR No.

HRPK02-000193-2021

Next Date: 26.05.2021

Simi Sidhu & another

Versus

General Public & others

Petition under the Guardian and Wards Act

Notice to: General Public

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

26.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=panchkula

Dated, this day of 16.04.2021.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Panchkula.

CL21008485

State slashes PPSC exam fee

The Tribune IMPACT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, APRIL 22

Days after *The Tribune* highlighted charging of a hefty examination and application fee from candidates by the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC), the state government today announced between 30 and 80 per cent cut in fee.

The PPSC had been charging Rs 3,000 per exam from all categories of candidates, including those from economically weaker sections, with disabilities, sports person and descendants of ex-servicemen. Only SC/ST and OBC categories candidates were paying a discounted fee of Rs 1,125.

As per the new orders issued by the Department of Personnel today, the fee for economically weaker section (EWS), those with disabilities and descendants of ex-serviceman has been reduced

30-80% cut for various categories of aspirants



REVISED STRUCTURE

| Category | New fee | Old fee |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| EWS, disabled, wards of veterans | ₹500 | ₹3,000 |
| SC/ST, OBC | ₹750 | ₹1,125 |
| General candidates | ₹1,500 | ₹3,000 |

from Rs 3,000 to Rs 500. The candidates from these categories will pay only application fee of Rs 500 and there will be no examination fee.

Further, the fee for general category candidates has been reduced from Rs 3,000 (Rs 500 as application fee and Rs 2,500 as examination fee)

to Rs 1,500 (Rs 500 as application fee and Rs 1,000 as examination fee). The fee for SC/ST and OBC candidates has also been reduced from Rs 1,125 to Rs 750.

On January 18, PPSC Chairman Lt Gen Surinder Singh (retd) had asked the Chief Minister to reduce fee

for various categories, including women, economically weaker sections and persons with disabilities. He had also sent a comparative list of fee charged by the Union Public Service Commission and other state public service commissions for various recruitment exams.

The letter had pointed out while Punjab charged Rs 3,000 for an exam from every general category candidate, the UPSC charged only Rs 200 for the same. Meghalaya and Gujarat charge Rs 100, Uttar Pradesh Rs 125, Rajasthan Rs 350, Haryana Rs 1,000 and Himachal Pradesh Rs 1,500.

From April 1, 2020, to January 31, 2021, the PPSC collected over Rs 32.60 crore as examination and application fee for various recruitment drives. In contrast, the total expenditure incurred by the commission on conducting exams was only Rs 8.91 crore. The PPSC deposited around Rs 24 crore "profit" with the state treasury a few days ago.



Now, a housing colony for the Economically Weaker Section can come up on 1.5 acres of land against 5 acres required earlier. FILE

Building bylaws tweaked to check illegal colonies

RAJMEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

Facing heat due to increase in the number of illegal colonies, the Punjab Local Bodies Department has amended building bylaws to make housing and commercial projects more lucrative for builders and affordable to the end users.

Now, a housing colony for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) can come up on 1.5 acres of land against 5 acres required earlier and a group housing project, under affordable housing, can be built on a half-acre of land against 2 acres required earlier.

To further incentivise, the department has cut the land size requirements, while increasing the minimum required road width from 25 ft to 30 ft. The area for parks has been slightly reduced to increase the road width. The built-up or saleable area for residential and commercial projects has also been increased by 10 per cent, subject to certain conditions.

Local Bodies Minister Brahm Mohindra said there were differences in norms followed by the department and Punjab's Housing Department under the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act. "We have brought parity in the build-

NEW RULES

- Exemption from providing a school site if there is a school within 1 km radius from the colony's centre
- 10% additional FAR for buildings that have a green rating
- Tech institutes to certify in case of building with over 15m height and buildings with double basements
- Structural engineers to certify in case of building with less than 15m height

ing bylaws," he said.

Mohindra said the department had gone an extra mile in making affordable housing more attractive so that the users could get incentives offered under the central government's affordable housing scheme.

The bylaws have been amended in consultation with stakeholders and mayors of the Municipal Corporations and chairmen of Improvement Trusts.

A government functionary said for affordable residential projects and town planning schemes, the maximum saleable area up to 65 per cent of the site area, subject to the required norms, had been allowed. In case of commercial colonies, the maximum saleable area of 45 per cent has been allowed.

Decide on sanction in 30 days: CVC

GST SCAM Ruling on prosecution of excise officials

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

Punjab Chief Vigilance Commissioner Justice Mehtab Singh Gill has set a 30-day deadline for the office of the Finance Commissioner, Taxation, to take a decision on the issue of granting sanction for the prosecution of Excise and Taxation officials in the GST scam.

The matter has been pending for more than six months.

In a communiqué to Finance Commissioner A Venu Prasad, Justice Gill asserted the accused had been granted bail as necessary sanction for prosecution was not given. But the cases were pending before trial courts for the want of prosecution sanction.

"You are requested to decide the issue of prosecution sanction within 30 days positively. As per the law, this responsibility lies with your office, being competent authority.... Kind-

DON'T BLAME VIGILANCE

"If these cases collapse at the stage of framing of charges in the trail court, the Vigilance Bureau will not be responsible.

Justice Mehtab Singh Gill, CVC

ly ensure needful is done as per law," Justice Gill asserted.

The issue pertains to grant of prosecution sanction of accused in case registered in August last year for cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy and other offences under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B of the IPC and the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act registered at the Vigilance Bureau Police Station, Flying Squad-1, Mohali.

In his communiqué, Justice Gill asserted sanction for prosecution of the officials in

the scam had not been received from his department. Referring to Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018, Justice Gill further asserted the decision on prosecution sanction was required to be conveyed by the competent authority within three months.

Justice Gill also pointed to the Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment in which bail was granted to the accused. Among other things, Justice Jaishree Thakur of the HC had on March 31 observed sanction to prosecute had not been obtained so far and the accused were in custody since the registration of the FIR. Some of them were rather in custody since June 2020. The court, under the circumstances, deemed it appropriate to allow regular bail to the petitioners as useful purpose would not be served in keeping them behind bars.

Vigilance raids top excise official

Action part of multi-crore GST scam investigation

JALANDHAR, APRIL 22

A team of the Vigilance Bureau today raided the premises of BK Viri, former joint director of Excise Department, Jalandhar division, in connection with the goods and services tax (GST) scam. Viri is under suspension from the post of Additional Excise Commissioner.

Following information of Viri's presence at his GTB Nagar house, a team of senior bureau officials and policemen, including SSP Daljinder Singh Dhillon and DSP Dalbir Singh, reached the spot. While the house was locked, the police cordoned it off as the family prevented them from entering it.



Police officials at the Additional Excise Commissioner's house.

Probing the multi-crore tax evasion racket, the bureau had booked Viri and six others last year in the graft case.

As per officials, the racket had brought to the fore rampant corruption in the excise

department. Officials were allegedly found guilty of taking bribe from businessmen and transporters every month for allowing goods in and out of the state without paying the GST. — TNS

Four booked for attack on jail staff

FEROZEPUR, APRIL 22

The police have booked three inmates and an unidentified person for allegedly manhandling jail officials following the recovery of intoxicating material on the premises.

On April 21, jail warden Kuldeep Singh spotted a tennis ball in the backyard of barrack No. 6. When he went to pick it up, an inmate, Bhupinder Singh, grabbed the ball and tried to flee. Then two under-trials, Thomas and Pamma, allegedly attacked the staff. On examination, 9.50 gm heroin and two packets of intoxicating material were found inside the ball.

A case under Sections of the IPC and the NDPS Act was registered. — OC

SSSB nod to result of 48 jail official posts

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

The Subordinate Services Selection Board has approved the result pertaining to 48 posts of assistant superintendent in the Jails Department.

SSSB chairman Raman Behl said the board had invited applications for these posts in November 2020 and a written exam was held on January 31, result of which was announced on February 16.

He said physical check-up of selected candidates on the basis of the written exam was carried out on March 2 and 16. This was followed by counselling March 24 to verify the educational certificates. The result was approved at the board meeting today. — TNS

4 vehicle lifters nabbed

FATEHGARH SAHIB, APRIL 22

The police busted a gang of vehicle lifters with the arrest of four persons and recovered six bikes, intoxicant tablets and injections from them.

SP (Investigation) Jagjit Singh Jallah said following a tip-off, CIA staff of the Sirhind police busted the gang active in Fatehgarh

Sahib and Patiala. They used to target vehicles at gurdwara parking lots and sell these using fake registration plates.

The accused are Gauravneet Singh and Bikramjit Singh, both of Bholi Reona; Dilbar Singh of Falori Kalhan; and Gurjant Singh of Rajpura.

They have been booked under the NDPS Act. — OC

IN MEMORIAM

In the everlasting memory of our loved son **SANDEEP CHATHA** who left us in tears on **23rd April 1988**.

Sardar H.S. Chatha
Ex-Finance Minister
Haryana
Nirmal Deep Chatha
Mandeep Chatha
Raman Deep Chatha
Amar Partap Chatha

Father
Mother
Brother
Sister-in-Law
Nephew



Biggest single-day spike in cases, deaths

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

With biggest spike of 9,742 Covid-19 cases and 55 deaths, the Covid-19 tally was pegged at 3,90,989 in Haryana, while the death toll reached 3,583 on Thursday.

Gurugram reported a maximum of 3,553 cases followed by Faridabad (1,342) and Sonapat (850).

Gurugram and Faridabad reported with a maximum of 10 deaths each followed by Jind (6) and Karnal and Panipat (5 each).

Four deaths were reported from Bhiwani, Yamuna Nagar and Fatehabad reported three deaths, followed by Panipat with three Ambala, Hisar and Panchkula reported two deaths each, while Nuh, Sirsa and Kaithal reported one death each.

There are 58,597 active cases in the state, while 3,28,809 patients have been



A health worker take a sample for Covid test at Kalpana Chawla Hospital in Karnal on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SAYEED AHMED

| COVID METER | |
|---|--------|
| Cases | 9,742 |
| Deaths | 55 |
| Critical | 1,814 |
| Active cases | 58,597 |
| WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS: Gurugram, Faridabad & Sonapat | |

discharged after recovery. While the Covid-19 positivity rate is pegged at 5.59 per cent, the recovery rate is reported to be 84.10 per cent. The fatality rate is reported to be 0.92 per cent.

Meanwhile, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has given direc-

tions to ensure adequate arrangement of oxygen in all hospitals of the state on time and not to give Remdesivir injection without doctor's prescription.

Khattar was presiding over a meeting of senior officials of various departments along with deputy commissioners through video-conferencing today. He reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the state, rabi crop procurement status and Jal Shakti Mission.

He said officials should ensure that the amount of oxygen supply should be proportionate in the manner in which it had been allocated, for which he directed to make a supply roster as well.

He said 1,000 doses of the Remdesivir injection were being supplied daily in the state and also directed the officials concerned to ensure that it was not sold on the black market.

Along with this, directions to start a 24x7 helpline number were also issued so that hospitals could contact the number in emergency. The CM also asked to reserve 50 per cent beds for Covid patients in private hospitals. At the meeting, details about Covid-19 positive patients were also presented and detailed information about the plan to vaccinate all people above 18 years from May 1 was also given.

The Chief Minister said if a transporter did not ensure lifting of wheat from mandis for more than 48 hours, then the District Administration should get the lifting done at their level.

During the review of the Jal Shakti Mission, the Chief Minister asked to appoint a Nodal Officer at the district level to implement this scheme launched by the Prime Minister.

Shops to shut by 6 pm, ban on non-essential gatherings

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

Having witnessed a rapid surge in the Covid-19 cases in recent days, the Haryana Government on Thursday announced several restrictions to control the spread, including closure of shops by 6 pm and a ban on all non-essential gatherings.

The restrictions will come into effect from Friday, state Home and Health Minister Anil Vij said.

"All shops will remain closed from 6 pm onward in Haryana from tomorrow, all non-essential gatherings are banned, anybody holding any function within prescribed limit will have to seek permission from concerned SDM (Sub Divisional Magistrate)," Vij said in a tweet. The state government had recently capped the number of attendees in indoor events to 50 and that for open spaces to 200. — PTI

Vaccine vials stolen from hospital, found abandoned at tea stall

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JIND, APRIL 22

A thief who stole 1,710 vials of Covishield and Covaxin from the storeroom of the Government Civil Hospital in Jind abandoned the bagful of the vaccines at a tea stall outside the Jind Civil Lines police station this afternoon.

A note, purportedly written by the thief, was found inside the bag carrying vials of the stolen vaccines in which he expressed "regret over not knowing that it was Covid vaccine". Though it was not clear whether there was one person or two of them who broke into the room of the PP Centre in the hospital, the police said they had started investigation and got clues to identify the accused.

The hospital authorities found the locks of the room where the vials were kept broken as the stock of 1,710 doses of Covishield and Covaxin were stolen in the morning.

An official nursing in-charge Sheila said she was called by a sweeper who came to the hospital on Thursday morning, and said that the locks of the



Covid jab vials that were later found abandoned at a tea stall.

storeroom were broken and many items were stolen.

The thieves broke open four locks of the storeroom and the deep freezer.

The sources said that there were many other vaccines kept in the store which were not taken away by the thieves. The health official sources said that vaccines of other diseases like Polio BCG etc were found intact and even a lap-top and Rs 50,000 was also found safe in the room.

A scan of the CCTV footage on the campus of the Civil Hospital showed that two persons were seen near the entrance of the PP centre around 12.40 am who left the spot after 25 minutes. They were seen to be carrying backpacks.

Finally, ailing Mewat doctor gets bed in Rohtak pvt hospital

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, APRIL 22

The Covid situation has turned so alarming in the state that even doctors are struggling to get beds in private as well as government hospitals for the treatment of Covid.

Dr Sanjeev Khichi, Associate Professor with the Community Medicine Department at SHKM Medical College,

Nalhar (Mewat), allegedly failed to get an ICU bed at prominent private hospitals in Gurugram and Jaipur as well as at the PGIMS in Rohtak as no critical care bed was available in any of the institutions.

After contacting such hospitals, his relatives somehow managed to get him admission at a private hospital in Rohtak on Thursday. Covid has caused him lung infection, resulting in



Dr Sanjeev Khichi in Rohtak.

low levels of oxygen.

"My younger brother tested Covid-positive at his workplace in Mewat on April

19. He got admitted to the SHKM Medical College when his condition deteriorated. Next day, his oxygen level dropped to 60 and doctors advised us to rush him to any other hospital where the facility of treating critical Covid patients is available," said Krishan Khichi, a registered medical practitioner at Ateli town (Mahendragarh).

He maintained later that they contacted all promi-

nent private hospitals in Gurugram, Jaipur and other places requesting their managers to admit a member of their fraternity but no one paid any heed.

"Then, we contacted our relatives and friends in Rohtak who too tried to get an ICU bed for my brother at the PGIMS but found no such bed was available there. Finally, we managed to get an ICU bed at a private hospi-

tal in Rohtak city and brought my brother here from Mewat," said Krishan.

He said while doctors who had been combating the pandemic are struggling to get medical aid, political leaders and other influential people are easily being provided the facility in every private and government hospital. "Who will treat Covid patients when doctors won't be available?" questioned Krishan.

High Court sets 24-hr deadline, tells state to list Covid measures

Asks govt if nodal agency exists in each district to meet emergency

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

As the country witnessed the world's highest single-day spike with more than 3.14 lakh new Covid-19 cases, the Punjab and Haryana High Court today set a 24-hour deadline for the Haryana Government to inform the Bench whether a coordinating body was available in each district for the people to approach in crisis.

Haryana also undertook to inform the Bench whether the designated toll-free helpline number (1075) was operational. As the case came up for resumed hearing, the Bench of Justice Rajan Gupta and Justice Karamjit Singh observed: "Though a state-level committee is already in

TAKING COGNISANCE OF OXYGEN SHORTAGE

The submission came a day after the Punjab Chief Minister, Capt Amarinder Singh, said the state was facing a shortage of medical oxygen for Covid-19 patients. He had also urged the Centre to ensure uninterrupted supply and at least a daily allocation of 120 MT to Punjab.

existence in Haryana, a question has arisen whether nodal agency is available in every district for people to approach in case of any emergency."

The Bench also took on record Haryana Additional Advocate-General Ankur Mittal's submission that he would apprise the court of the constitution of such a committee. Before parting with the matter, the Bench also recorded in its order Punjab state counsel VM Gupta's submission that proper arrangements were

being made and the supply of oxygen had been increased to 136 MT.

The submission came a day after Punjab CM, Capt Amarinder Singh, said the state was facing a shortage of medical oxygen for Covid patients. He had urged the Centre to ensure uninterrupted supply and at least a daily allocation of 120 MT to Punjab.

The High Court, on the previous date of hearing, had taken cognisance of the "grim" situation in the region follow-

ing surge in Covid cases — including the non-availability of beds in the hospitals and "depleted" oxygen supply.

Senior advocate and amicus curiae Rupinder Khosla had contended that there was a complete chaos due to the situation arising out of the Covid-19 spread and the government guidelines were not being followed in the region. Beds were not available to those seeking admission to the hospitals and the supply of oxygen was "severely depleted".

The case has its genesis in a petition filed against State of Haryana and other respondents by Rishi. His counsel had told the Bench the petitioner, a jail inmate, was tested positive for Covid on December 27, 2020.



Farmers protest at the Aasoda toll plaza near Tikri. SUMIT THARAN

Farmers take over Aasoda toll plaza

JHAJJAR, APRIL 22

Protesting farmers took over the Aasoda toll plaza on the KMP expressway near Tikri border on Thursday in the presence of Bahadurgarh SDM Hiten-dra Sharma, DSP Pawan Kumar and heavy police and paramilitary personnel.

They also announced to pitch a tent at the toll plaza permanently in order to ensure free passage to the commuters till the agitation continues.

It was for the fourth time in

the past four months that the protesters got the toll collection stopped. Earlier, the toll collection was stopped by the farmers on April 15 but the administration reactivated it the next day.

Earlier, the protesters, in a considerable number, reached the toll plaza at around 1 pm and engaged in verbal duel with the officers. The officers asked them not to take the law into their hands, but the farmers lifted the toll barrier and took over the plaza. — TNS



Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar presides over the Cabinet meeting at Chandigarh on Thursday.

Cabinet approves excise policy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

The Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar here today approved the Excise Policy for 2021-22.

The overall collection from excise in financial year 2020-21 is Rs 6,792 crore against the collection of Rs 6,361 crore in financial year 2019-20. Despite complete lockdown till the first week of May 2020 and overall economic slowdown for major part of year 2020-21, excise revenue during 2020-21 has witnessed a growth of 6.69 per cent. Since, the period of allotment of retail vends for 2020-21 will come to an end on May 19, the growth in excise revenue for policy year 2020-21 is likely to reach 15 per cent.

The duration of Excise Policy for 2021-22 will be from May 20, 2021 to May 19, 2022. Liquor vends will be allotted for a period of one year (365 days). The government has decided to discontinue/abolish Covid cess on the sale of liquor in next policy (2021-22). Covid cess was imposed in 2020-21 for generating additional revenue in view of the Covid pandemic.

Another important feature of the policy is that the existing licences of zones of country liquor (CL) and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) vends for the year 2020-21 are offered an option to get their licences renewed for policy year 2021-22 (i.e. May 20, 2021 to May 19, 2022).

The licences of zones of CL and IMFL vend will be

renewed at an increase of 10 per cent over and above the 'Base Licence Fee/proportionate licence fee as the case may be' for the year 2020-21. For remaining zones that are not renewed, bids will be invited.

In case, sufficient number of applications for renewal of zones of CL (L-14A) and IMFL (L-2) vends from the existing licencees of 2020-21 are not received, the competent authority may invites e-bid/tender for all the zones of vends. During policy year 2021-22, the quota of IMFL has been increased from 550 lakh proof litre (PL) to 625 lakh PL. The enhanced quota of IMFL will be added proportionately in the basic quota of all the zones of liquor vends. The quota of country liquor has been kept same.

Policy on monetisation of locked properties gets nod

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

To encourage the monetisation of the locked properties of the municipal bodies, the Haryana Government has made a policy for the sale of shops/houses by civic bodies where possessions of such properties is with entities other than the municipal bodies or their predecessors for a period of 20 years.

The state Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, here today approved the policy.

As per the policy, the shops/houses and other properties of the municipal bodies which have been assigned to persons (other than the municipal bodies) for a period of 20 years or more shall be converted into the properties belonging to such of the persons, or shall be transferred in the ownership possession of such persons and also to sell such prop-

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

The shops/houses and other properties of the municipal bodies which have been assigned to persons (other than the municipal bodies) for a period of 20 years or more shall be converted into the properties belonging to such of the persons, or shall be transferred in the ownership possession of such persons and also to sell such properties to such persons.

erties to such persons.

Through another decision, the Cabinet today approved the policy for the transfer of municipal lands by charging consideration.

This policy would apply on the categories of properties/persons, where due to exigencies or otherwise, no approach road is available to the land owned by private individuals or entities. The Cabinet also approved the Amendment in the "Haryana Minor Mineral Concession, Stocking, Transportation Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2012" and "Haryana District Mineral Foundation Rules, 2017".

As per the amendments, in case of mining lease/

contract being granted through competitive bidding process, the highest bid received shall become the "annual dead rent" or annual contract money payable by the lessee or contractors respectively.

The Cabinet also approved the "HARIHAR" (Homeless Abandoned and Surrendered Children Rehabilitation Initiative Haryana) Policy for providing employment, educational and financial benefits to abandoned and surrendered children who have completed the age of 18 from the child care institutions of the state and were abandoned before the age of five or surrendered before the age of one year.

AUCTION NOTICE

An Open auction for the sale of Govt Vehicle (Boloro Jeep) No. HP30-0707 (model 2007) will hold in the office of undersigned at Divisional Complex Karsog on 28th April 2021 at 11.30 AM on "AS IT IS, WHERE IT IS AND IN WHATEVER CONDITION IT IS" BASIS. The Interested Parties can inspect the vehicle at Divisional Forest Office Complex Karsog on any working day between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM. The interested Purchasers/ bidders will have to deposit Rs 10000/- only as EMD to participate in the bidding process up to 11.00 AM on the same day. The EMD will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders after completion of bidding process.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Karsog Forest Division, Distt Mandi, H.P.

DPR/HP/398

HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED,
(A Government of Haryana Undertaking)
Bays No. 59-62, Sector-2, Panchkula, Phone: 0172-2567945
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

HMSCL invites e-tenders for two years Rate Contract for Impulse Oscillometry and Diffusion System, Hand Held Pulse Oximeter, Mortuary Chamber on the website www.etenders.hry.nic.in. Please see corrigendum, if any, regarding these tenders on the website www.etenders.hry.nic.in only.

Managing Director,
HMSCL, Panchkula.

PRDH/2222/11/40/2022/2673/31/4

LALA LAJPAT RAI UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCES, HISAR
(Established by Haryana Legislature Act No. 7 of 2010)
CORRIGENDUM ADVT. NO. 2/2021

Corrigendum of offline applications for the posts advertised vide Advt. 2/2021 in Dainik Jagran, The Tribune (English) and Employment News on 07.04.2021.

This is for information of all concerned that the last date for receipt of offline applications for the post of Registrar, Dean, CODST & Dean, COVS is hereby extended up to 22.05.2021 (29.05.2021 for the candidates residing abroad).

Registrar

PRDH/1305/11/23/2022/2671/31/4

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.
"CORRIGENDUM" Dated: 22.4.2021

Apropos to advertisement No. 7-I/3-2021 & 7-II/3-2021, published in "The Tribune" and "Dainik Bhaskar" on 23rd March, 2021, and detailed advertisement uploaded on Commission's website (<http://www.hpssc.hp.gov.in/hpssc/>), it is notified for information of all concerned that the Physical Test i.e. measurement of chest & height, the Guidelines as prescribed under Regulation-9 of Appendix-III, Regulations relating to the Physical Examination of candidates, notified by the department of Personnel and Training, Government of India will be complied with as per order passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 31.12.2019 in CWP No. 2198/2019 titled as H.P. Public Service Commission Vs. Dipika Chandel & Others, for filling up the posts of Range Forest Officer, Class-II (Gazetted) (on contract basis) in the department of Forest Himachal Pradesh.

(Ashutosh Garg) IAS,
Secretary, H.P. Public Service Commission.
Ph. No. 0177-2623786.

DI-1470

SELECTION OF MANAGER FOR ARMY EX-SERVICEMEN CSD CANTEENS UNDER HQ PH & HP (I) SUB AREA

1. Wanted retired Defence Officers (Colonel and below) for posts of Managers for ESM Canteens at Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ambala Jagadhri, Pipri, Karnal, Kaithal, Panipat, Sonapat, Gohana and Barara. Appointment will be on contractual basis for 11 months.

2. Eligibility:- Age less than 64 years one month on the day of appt and medically fit. Candidates to apply to Chairman, HQ PH & HP (I) Sub Area Canteen Cell with fwg docus by 01 May 2021:-
(a) Application affixed with recent passport size photo. (Format be collected from Canteen Cell Office by Email).
(b). Photocopy of APN Regn.

3. Contact Details :- For detailed terms & conditions contact (08:30 am to 02 pm on working days.
(a) Tele No : 0171-2631192 and 2979259
(b) Email id: canteencellambala@gmail.com

4. Test will be conducted on 12 May 2021 at Canteen Cell, HQ PH & HP (I) Sub Area at 0900 Hrs.

HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)
Himfied Building, BCS, New Shimla, Shimla-171009
Phone No. : 0177-2671589, 2670633
CIN : U40101HP2006SGC0305591
AMENDMENT-03

In partial amendment to the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) having tender reference No. HPPCL/EC/Insurance Broker-/2021 published on 10.02.2021 and in continuation to Amendment-02 issued on 07.04.2021 regarding "Hiring of Services of Insurance Brokers for Insurance Policy of HPPCL Generating stations as well as Settlement of Insurance Claims and other Insurance related Matters", the last date for bid submission/opening is hereby **EXTENDED** as under:

Deadline for Submission of Bids : 1430 Hrs. on 30.04.2021
Opening of Bids : 1500 Hrs. on 30.04.2021
The other terms and conditions of NIT shall remain unchanged. -Sd-
Dy. General Manager (EC), HPPCL, Shimla-09, H.P.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

A national plan

Centre needs to streamline oxygen supply, vaccine pricing

THE fast-deteriorating Covid situation in the country has prompted the Supreme Court to demand a national plan from the Centre on the supply of oxygen and essential drugs, besides the method and manner of vaccination. Such a plan should have been in place at least a month ago, when the sharply rising curve of the daily caseload left no room for doubt that the second wave of the pandemic was upon us. It is without doubt a national emergency, but the government's response has been woefully inadequate, inviting the ire of the judiciary. 'Why is the Centre not waking up to the gravity of the situation?' the Delhi High Court had asked on Wednesday, the day 22 Covid patients died at a Nashik hospital due to disruption of oxygen supply.

The government's commitment to providing an affordable vaccine to all is also coming a cropper. As India prepares to vaccinate citizens in the 18-44 age group, accounting for around 40 per cent of the population, an unsavoury controversy has erupted over the differential pricing for the life-saving vaccines. The Serum Institute of India (SII), the maker of Covishield, has stated that the vaccine would cost private hospitals Rs 600 per dose and state governments Rs 400; the lower rate would also apply to Central government procurement once the existing contract for Rs 150 a dose ends. The SII has cited the Centre's liberalised policy that gives vaccine manufacturers flexibility in fixing prices. This means that a substantial number of people will now have second thoughts about paying a hefty price for the shot. The new rates are likely to increase vaccine hesitancy, which has been a stumbling block for the inoculation programme so far. The Centre needs to intervene quickly to cap the prices within reasonable limits so that profiteering can be curbed and the common person is able to afford the jab.

Be it oxygen, medicines or vaccine, the Centre can't afford to let disruptions or irregularities derail India's battle against the virus. There has to be an action plan that can deal with any eventuality, assuming that the worst is yet to come.

Virus ravaging Punjab

People, including farmers, must get tested, take vax

ALONG with the Punjab Government scaling up efforts to combat the health crisis, there is an urgent need for a universal adoption of abundant caution and vaccine (eligible ones). These measures are the best means to check the onslaught of the coronavirus that is spreading in Punjab at a super speed. Punjab's caseload is expected to surpass the record one-lakh mark by the end of April. Treatment of the rising numbers is hampered by the rapidly depleting medical supplies. The state's fatality rate continuing to be more than double the national rate remains an additional cause of concern.

Cries for resources essential for critically affected patients — hospital beds, oxygen cylinders, ventilators, medicines, medical staff and nurses, as also sanitation workers and cremation spaces — are being heard from almost every nook and corner of the state. Even the far-flung and remote rural belts equipped with little healthcare facilities, unlike the first wave last year, have not been spared by the pathogen in this second wave. The clamour for urgent aid has, unfortunately, led to some unscrupulous elements making a quick buck with hoarding and black-marketing of drugs such as remdesivir. Hospital beds and oxygen too are disturbingly commanding a premium. Incidentally, patients must take remdesivir judiciously and only under the physician's advice, for its therapeutic window is very narrow.

The grave scenario also calls for sterner steps to control gatherings and crowds. In this context, the attempt to strengthen the farmers' protest seeking the repeal of the farm laws enacted in September assumes importance. Even as the authorities are facilitating inoculation centres at Singhu and Tikri, the main sites of the dharna, the participating peasants need to shed defiance and take the immunising jabs. Their leaders must insist on allowing only those tested negative for coronavirus every few days to the sit-ins. Not only will this responsible behaviour prevent a flare-up among their community, it will also give a fillip to the public support that is of import to their cause. Covid protocol compliance will additionally help them on the other front that they are battling these days: the allegation that they are blocking oxygen supply vehicles on the Delhi border.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. — John F Kennedy

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS ACT AGAIN.

CLOSELY following the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy from Lahore, to which he paid his first visit after assuming charge of his office, comes the order of the Punjab Government announcing the extension for another period of six months of the application to Lahore, Amritsar and Sheikhpura districts of the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act. This has been done with the approval of the Government of India on the representation of the Local Government, which has apparently come to the conclusion that in the interest of peace and order and at a time when the question of the repeal of all repressive laws is under examination, restraint of this kind should be placed on the people of three important districts of the Punjab. In giving its reasons for the extension of the restrictions upon holding public meetings, the Punjab Government says that "excitement of a dangerous character continues in the Central Punjab and incitements to violence and disorder are frequently given at meetings held under cover of legal exemptions". We do not know what material the Punjab Government has to justify this opinion and whether the existence of "excitement among the people" — whether dangerous or not — is excuse enough for the Government to extend the Act in question. At the time when the Act was passed, the public were clearly given to understand that only under exceptional circumstances of seditious activities of the people would the restraint be imposed and not merely to give expression by the people to their strong feelings and sentiments in respect of unfavourable acts and measures of the Government. What we mean is that a clear distinction should be made between the legitimate criticism of Government measures and policies, though expressed in a strong language and accompanied by usual fervour, and the existence of actual danger to peace and activities of the people directed against the Government and authority.

Stooping to conquer

Electioneering in West Bengal has crossed all limits of civility



TRYSTS AND TURNS
JULIO RIBEIRO

THE defining feature of the 2021 Assembly elections in West Bengal is the image of a lone intrepid woman with a broken leg in a wheelchair. She is dressed simply in her trademark white sari. She has taken on the country's most popular politician and his retinue consisting of the Union Home Minister, the BJP president, UP Chief Minister and a stream of bigwigs single-handedly, in a David v/s Goliath battle.

How did she break her leg? She was boarding her car after an election rally, when the crowd that had come dangerously close to her put pressure on the car's door when only one leg was safely inside. In numerous rallies supervised by me in my halcyon days, I have witnessed this mad rush of admirers, or may be just onlookers, towards the presiding star.

On one memorable occasion in the Mumbai suburb of Chembur, Indira Gandhi was escorted to her car after a rally, when the crowd rushed to greet her. One portly woman of overbearing mien used her ample strength to muscle her way to the car and poke her head through the window adjoining the PM's seat. Indira Gandhi was visibly upset!

It was out of the question to lay our hands on the offender as she was a woman. I was nonplussed, but a junior police officer used his presence of mind, quickly removed his nameplate fastened by a pin to his shirt pocket, and stuck the pin into the ample derriere of the offender, causing her to first wince, and then instantly remove her mug from the car's window.

Some such out-of-the-box thinking would have prevented the bone injury to Didi, but then, the 'bhadralok' would have been



LOW BLOW: 'Didi-oh-Didi', drawled and punctuated in the tone used by Modi, will remain embedded in Bengal's memory for a long time. rrr

The BJP upped the ante with all the money and organisation at its command. But its election talk could have been way more civilised than it proved to be.

deprived of the defining picture of the 2021 election that is bound to go down in the annals of Bengal's electoral history, particularly if 'Didi-oh-Didi' emerges successful. There is a 51:49 chance she will, in which case the broken bone will mend faster than her age would normally demand!

The broken leg and the wheelchair would be of help in her campaign for a third term, neutralising the incumbency's negative factor. Her popularity as a selfless worker with minimum wants is a second advantage that would neutralise Modi's popularity with the Indian masses. In a state election, a local demigod like Mamata Banerjee takes precedence over a national demigod like Narendra Modi. That the BJP was forced to divest a sizeable portion of its war chest, and train all its big guns on this single warrior woman will not be lost on Bengal's electorate.

And what does one make of the CISF firing near the election booth at Sitalkuchi in Cooch-Behar that claimed four lives? The CISF, like the CRPF and the BSF, is a paramilitary force controlled by the Union Home Ministry. Under normal conditions, it can be deployed only at the request of the state government. As Special Sec-

retary in the Home Ministry, I had personally supervised the induction of several paramilitary battalions of the BSF and the CRPF by air into Assam to help the state government in the conduct of Assembly elections in January 1986. They operated under the instructions of the state government, as was always the rule.

The Home Ministry's forces must have reported to the DGP of West Bengal. Their deployment and utilisation should have been left to the state government. If the rules have changed after Amit Shah assumed the mantle of the Home Minister, I am not aware. From what I have read, there is an uneasy feeling that these forces reported to the Election Commission directly, which was earlier never the case. It is the state administration that is responsible for law and order. During elections, the Chief Secretary and the DGP do report to the Election Commission on matters related to the conduct of the elections. The latter can direct increased deployment at certain places at certain times, but the EC cannot instruct the armed forces of the union on how, when and where it should use force. That is the duty of the state.

So, the accusations flying thick and

fast between Modi and Mamata give the impression that the rules of the game have been altered. When were they altered? Are the altered instructions put down in writing? Do the paramilitary forces operate under the state government's officials or not? If the old rules still apply, the firing by the CISF had to be ordered by a Magistrate specially deputed to the spot, or the local police officers present at the site.

And, finally, there is the unfortunate feeling gaining currency that the Election Commission of India is losing its old sheen. It was nationally and internationally recognised as a strictly impartial umpire which routinely ensured free and fair elections, bereft of any bias, real or perceived. The BJP's assaults on institutions of governance have unfortunately gone beyond the fringes of this fine institution, whose base was constructed by a giant called TN Seshan, and then, nurtured by a succession of gentler giants, but giants all the same.

The commission's one-day ban on the TMC's sole star campaigner for an arguably explainable default did not go down well with the more justice-conscious members of the public. It gave an advantage to her opponents, for which she partly compensated by sitting on a dharna in a public square, drawing and sketching, and thereby drawing attention to the injustice.

The thinking public of our ancient land will appreciate a little more civility during elections. The electioneering in Bengal has crossed all limits, and not only in the number of days it took to complete the process. The BJP upped the ante with all the money and organisation at its command. But its election talk could have been way more civilised than it proved to be. From my PM, in particular, I as a patriotic citizen expected much more refinement.

The three words, 'Didi-oh-Didi', drawled and punctuated in the tone used by Modi, will remain embedded in Bengal's memory for a long time. Who knows the words may boomerang on Modi, as the 'chaiwala' jibe boomeranged on Mani Shankar Aiyar and the Congress on another occasion in an earlier election!

The way around essay writing

RAJESH KOCHHAR

AFEW days ago, a seven-year-old student in the US wrote an adorable letter to a clothing company, expressing her disapproval of girls' jeans with fake pockets. I want front pockets because I want to put my hands in them. I would also like to put things in them.' The company immediately accepted her suggestion and even sent her a few pairs of jeans and shorts with pockets. She wrote the letter as part of her school assignment for writing persuasive letters. The assignment was very thoughtful and the exercise would stand the pupils in good stead in the years to come.

The incident reminded me of our English education in school. We were

introduced to the language at a fairly senior level. The final matriculation examination paper set the tone for the immediately lower classes. One of the high-mark exercises was writing a letter or an essay.

Once in a while, a student, with the help of elders at home, prepared a document which was then copied by his close friends. However, more often than not, the supply came from help books. It is not clear who wrote these books. A letter to a class fellow on the death of his mother did not say anything personal or heartfelt, but taught the whole message of the Gita to the poor grieving boy.

The essay on Diwali did not talk of the joy of lighting lamps, the excitement and spirit of competition associated with fireworks, or the solemnity

at home. Rather, the help book educated the pupils on the significance of the five-day celebration, starting with Dhanteras and ending on Bhai Dooj.

High school examination was conducted by Panjab University that covered a vast territory comprising different geographies, ecologies and cultures. When the paper demanded an essay on a train journey, students in distant parts of Himachal Pradesh were at a loss; they had never seen a train, leave aside travel by it. A favourite of the paper-setters was a house on fire, as if schoolboys routinely set houses on fire and took notes.

The main aim was not to learn English, but pass the examination. There were some popular essays likely to be in the shortlist of the paper-setter. Very often a student chose to put all his eggs

in one basket. He would memorise just one essay and hope that it would 'come' in the question paper.

Humour arose out of a sense of nervousness. A student had prepared an essay on a cricket match for the final exam. But the paper demanded a train journey. The resourceful boy wrote: We all sat in the train. The train was delayed. We therefore came on to the platform and started playing cricket.

In another instance, the examinee had put his bets on 'My favourite leader', but the examiner opted for 'My best friend'. Gallantly, the boy rose to the occasion. He began: Jawaharlal Nehru is my best friend. (Postscript: The boy should not be punished, because this happened 60 years ago).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speech not enough

'PM's speech offered no credible assurance' is a scathing attack on BJP's model of governance. Instead of improving the crumbling healthcare system, the ruling dispensation was busy in its single-minded pursuit of winning the Bengal elections. The prime-ministerial address was a cosmetic exercise to bolster the morale of the people; it did not allay their immediate fears. Modi assured them of averting another economic calamity and ramping up healthcare facilities, but without mentioning any specific measures to counter Covid-19. Shifting the onus of dealing with the public health crisis to the states, NGOs and social organisations and individuals is Nero-like abdication of responsibility. Only coordinated efforts by the Central and state governments and the public at large will help tide over the worst-ever humanitarian crisis.

DS KANG, HOSHIARPUR

Follow own advice

PM Modi will address three election rallies on April 23 for the rest of the seats in Bengal. Thousands of people may attend his rallies. Though he has been advising people not to go into the crowds in view of the rising cases of Covid, he himself should desist from addressing election rallies; otherwise it amounts to the popular saying, 'Auron

ko nasihat, khud mian fazihat'.

VIDWAN SINGH SONI, PATIALA

Workers more responsible

Reference to 'To prevent exodus...' and 'NHRC study recommends...'; in both photos, the migrant labourers struggling to reach their parent state are wearing masks. On the contrary, in the photo of Malwa farmers heading for the Tikri border, the protesters are without masks. See the difference. Who is more responsible towards humanity in this hour of pandemic?

ASHOK KUMAR, BY MAIL

Govt has lost credibility

When the Covid cases are touching the figure of over 3 lakh daily, the PM wants the states to persuade migrant labourers to not leave their workplace. Despite an assurance from the CMs of Haryana and Delhi that they will be looked after, herds of fleeing labourers can be seen everywhere. Perhaps the credibility of our leaders is diminishing. Despite the warnings by the WHO regarding the second wave, our government found this time suitable to conduct the elections and hold road shows and rallies. The show still goes on.

JASWANT SINGH, CHANDIGARH

Ambitious drive

Come May 1, India's vaccination drive will undergo a drastic change.

It is advisable to have some guidelines for the pricing and allocation of vaccines. The supply will have to be maintained all through. Having sought freedom to run their own vaccination programmes their way, it is puzzling that the states are demanding that the Centre fix the price, and given their poor state of finance, provide the requisite funds. The heads-I-win-tails-you-lose stance of the states militates against common sense.

YASH PAL RALHAN, JALANDHAR

The right choice

The Punjab Government must be applauded for appointing IISER physicist Prof Arvind as Punjabi University VC, which is an action unprecedented for its sagacity and farsight. One seldom expects such socially beneficial decisions from politicians and bureaucrats. From my personal knowledge of his professional status and sensibility, I can vouch that Prof Arvind will do everything in his power to realise the vision that he has succinctly sketched: 'My vision is to restore the glory of the institution and build on those areas. I plan to bring in new disciplines.' Scientists by the intrinsic compulsions of their discipline do not talk. They perform and demonstrate for everyone to see. As the youngest VC, he has everything to uplift the institution.

SS BHATTI, CHANDIGARH

Road supply lines

Our jawans are manning snow-capped high mountains to guard the Ladakh borders in extreme cold winds against an aggressive China ('Delayed by snow, 2 lifelines to Ladakh reopen'). To keep them in position, road supply lines are crucial in all-weather conditions. Manali-Leh-Srinagar roads must be kept open to facilitate round-the-clock patrol, inspection and maintenance with reliable men and machines on a war footing. In foreign countries, many cities and capitals remain open in more low temperatures. Timely clearing of snow is easier than clearing blocked roads later, at high costs.

ASHOK KUMAR GOEL, PANCHKULA

US police reforms

Going by the volume and intensity of demonstrations against the police atrocity against George Floyd, an African-American, it looks like the incident has evoked universal disdain. The guilty officer, Derek Chauvin, has been convicted of second- and third-degree murder and manslaughter. The Republicans in the Senate should support Biden's ambitious police reform Bill that bans chokeholds, and creates national standards for policing towards greater accountability.

SS PAUL, NADIA

Tackling Covid needs course correction



PARSA VENKATESHWAR RAO JR
SENIOR JOURNALIST

It is no sin to falter and fail, but it is indeed an unforgivable sin to try and gloss over it. It leads to further mistakes and failures. It is this sin of glossing over its mistakes and failures of the Modi government that is a matter of concern. The second wave of Covid-19 that burst upon the country was waiting to happen. Somebody in the government should have anticipated the problem, and some preparation should have been made to tackle it. But the Modi government just failed to be prepared for the eventuality.

The election rallies in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal are not the issue, nor is the Kumbh Mela at Hardwar. These needed to be regulated but this could have been done only if the government had understood that Covid-19 was still in the air after the first wave subsided from October 2020 to March 2021.

There were quite a few mistakes along the way, right from March 25, 2020, when a nationwide lockdown was imposed hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced it. It is overlooked that the lockdown till the end of May did not in any way contain the initial phase of the pandemic. This became evident by July 2020 when the lockdown regulations were eased and the numbers shot up, and the explosion lasted from July 2020 through

August and September 2020. Then the tide receded, and this was much before the announcement of the vaccine rollout on January 3, 2021.

Consequently, Prime Minister Modi and his colleagues made the false claim, and many of us were taken in by it, that the March 25, 2020, lockdown decision was a farsighted one. The first wave trajectory of Covid-19 clearly indicates that the numbers in April and May 2020 were relatively modest in terms of the spread of the infection, and the numbers jumped in the following months. The lesson was a simple one. Lockdown was not exactly a miracle cure against the pandemic.

What was needed for Covid-19 management was avoiding crowding, observing social distance and wearing of the mask, and this much more than that of using sanitisers indiscriminately and in a manic fashion. The medical assumption during the earlier phase that the novel coronavirus spread through droplets from the mouth has now been replaced by the assumption that it is airborne. Call it a genuine mistake and that our understanding was incomplete. In the meanwhile, more than a crore people had been infected and they have been cured as well, but the medical researchers concluded that they could not prescribe any reasonable therapeutic protocols based on the clinical data of crore-plus people.

There was no vigorous medical research based on the data which should have produced scores if not hundreds of epidemiological studies. Genome sequencing was at its tardiest because through February 2020 onward, it was only the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune that was burdened with genome sequencing of

It looks like the govt had waited till Bharat Biotech managed to get at its vaccine solution before it had announced the rollout of the vaccine along with that of Oxford AstraZeneca's Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune. The order for Covishield was held back though the SII was ready. The political motive was clear. The govt wanted to prove that an Indian company, Bharat Biotech, had developed a vaccine based on an Indian genome sequence.

PLUG THE GAPS: The govt failed to pursue a vigorous vaccine development and manufacturing policy. REUTERS



the virus. As the Covid-19 infections spread and thousands of samples became available — of course, there was the inherent difficulty that it was not easy to get reasonably stable samples of the virus' genome which could then be used for sequencing it to study the structure — the exercise of sequencing it was not spread across many more laboratories across the biological and chemistry departments in the universities and at research institutes.

When the government was looking for pharmaceutical companies that could work on the vaccine, the research institutes and laboratories that could work with the companies were not too many. Bharat Biotech, which had come up with Covaxin, had to join hands with the NIV to work on the development of a vaccine. Another research laboratory,

the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology at Hyderabad, was able to create a sample of the virus' genome sequence which could serve as a basis for further development. But that was an isolated and lone example to do things. The government seemed to have picked on Bharat Biotech and paired it with NIV in the hope of getting at the vaccine.

It looks like the government had waited till Bharat Biotech had managed to get at its vaccine solution before it had announced the rollout of the vaccine along with that of Oxford AstraZeneca's Covishield manufactured in India by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune. The order for the SII's Covishield was held back though the SII was ready with about 70 million doses based on the trials carried out in the United Kingdom.

The political motive was clear. The government wanted to prove that an Indian company, Bharat Biotech, had developed a vaccine based on an Indian genome sequence. It was the Modi government's misplaced sense of nationalism. Covaxin was not ready to be rolled out like Covishield. The phase three human trials were not yet done with though Covaxin, its owner, took a belligerent nationalist position at a press conference in response to a snide remark by the SII.

It was clear as daylight that neither the SII nor Bharat Biotech could have met the demand for the coronavirus vaccine of the country. There was a need for shopping around in the world, or the government should have pushed other pharmaceutical companies in the country to work out the vaccine as it did with Bharat Biotech.

So, it is only in the middle of April that the Modi government decided to shop for other coronavirus vaccines like Russia's Sputnik V, and give a green signal for its production by the Reddy Labs in the country. And now the government is considering the possibility of other vaccines like that manufactured by Pfizer to be imported.

The Modi government had clearly failed to pursue a vigorous vaccine development and manufacture policy in the country when it picked up Bharat Biotech and a few others in May 2020, and it seemed to have backed Bharat Biotech more than it did others. Today, the only India-developed vaccine is that of Bharat Biotech, and its projected peak production of 700 million doses sometime in September this year, and it would not be able to meet India's needs.

The unpredictable course of US policy in Asia



SANDEEP DIKSHIT
DEPUTY EDITOR

The US presidential elections saw the peddling of Hunter Biden's business deals with China (besides Ukraine) by the pro-Trump media. The Biden team dismissed most of it as 'Russian disinformation', but it is incontrovertible that Hunter flew with his then Vice President father to Beijing in 2013. While there, he also shared a cup of coffee with an investment banker and was on his company's board 12 days later.

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar may have been expressing the anxiety being felt by the South Block over the zigzag course taken in foreign policy by the Biden administration when, in a span of one week, he twice declared that the Quad will never become an Asian NATO.

It now emerges that when the first-ever Quad summit convened by US President Joe Biden on March 12 was waxing eloquent on the launch of a "landmark partnership" with India to further accelerate the end of the Covid pandemic, the White House was doing the exact opposite.

A fact sheet after the Quad summit spoke of undertaking "shared action necessary to expand safe and effective Covid vaccine manufacturing in 2021". But the on-ground situation in Washington was vastly different. Indian Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu was at the same time telling the Biden administration that its invoking of the Defence Production Act has affected vaccine production in India due to a shortage of cell culture media, single-use tubing assemblies and certain chemicals.

The end-game of enticing India into a Quad grouping with military teeth had already been jolted when the US Navy's USS John Paul Jones sailed unannounced into the Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ) on April 7. The "freedom of navigation" sail could have been brushed under



NO CLEAR FOCUS: India is worried about US foreign policy in a post-Trump era with the new administration declaring that Quad will never become an Asian NATO. REUTERS

the carpet like the US Navy's many such earlier forays.

But for those who might have missed out on this brief India-US scrimmage-that-wasn't, the US Seventh Fleet helpfully put out a press release that declared its warship sailed "inside India's EEZ, without requesting India's prior consent".

The US Navy did clarify that its Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs) "are not about one country, nor are they about making political statements." But if the US professes to place India in the top drawer of its allies, why was there no prior word to the Indian Navy or its liaison officers posted in several of the US Navy's Asian out-

posts? Otherwise, the Indian Navy would not have reacted with a counter-press release that stated the US warship was tracked as soon as it entered the EEZ, about 130 nautical miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands.

On March 18 and 19, in stark contrast to its public image of going for an all-out war against Beijing in supply chains, defence build-up and high technology, Biden's two top foreign policy czars, Tony Blinken and Jake Sullivan were closeted with their Chinese counterparts for two days in Alaska.

The opening lived up to the public billing of an extremely upset US trying to pressure China on all its vul-

nerabilities — Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet, South China Sea et al. In fact, it was an unprecedented diplomatic dust-up. But the opening exchange did not appear to materially affect the rest of the meeting. "A senior administration official told me that the moment the cameras left, the Chinese side went back to business as usual, working through the list of issues on the agenda, including non-proliferation and Iran," said an *Atlantic* article.

As is well known, China already has a substantial handle on the US economy which has kept its citizens satiated with debt. The fiscal dependence — the US owes over \$1 trillion to China — can shake the economy if it is suddenly dumped. The trend to lean on China had spiralled during the Obama years when Biden was his second-in-command.

The US presidential elections, during which candidates are closely scanned for character flaws, saw the peddling of Hunter Biden's business deals with China (besides Ukraine) by the pro-Trump media. The Biden team dismissed most of it as "Russian disinformation" but it is incontrovertible that Hunter flew with his then Vice President father to Beijing in 2013. While there, he also shared a cup of coffee with an investment banker and was on his company's board 12 days later.

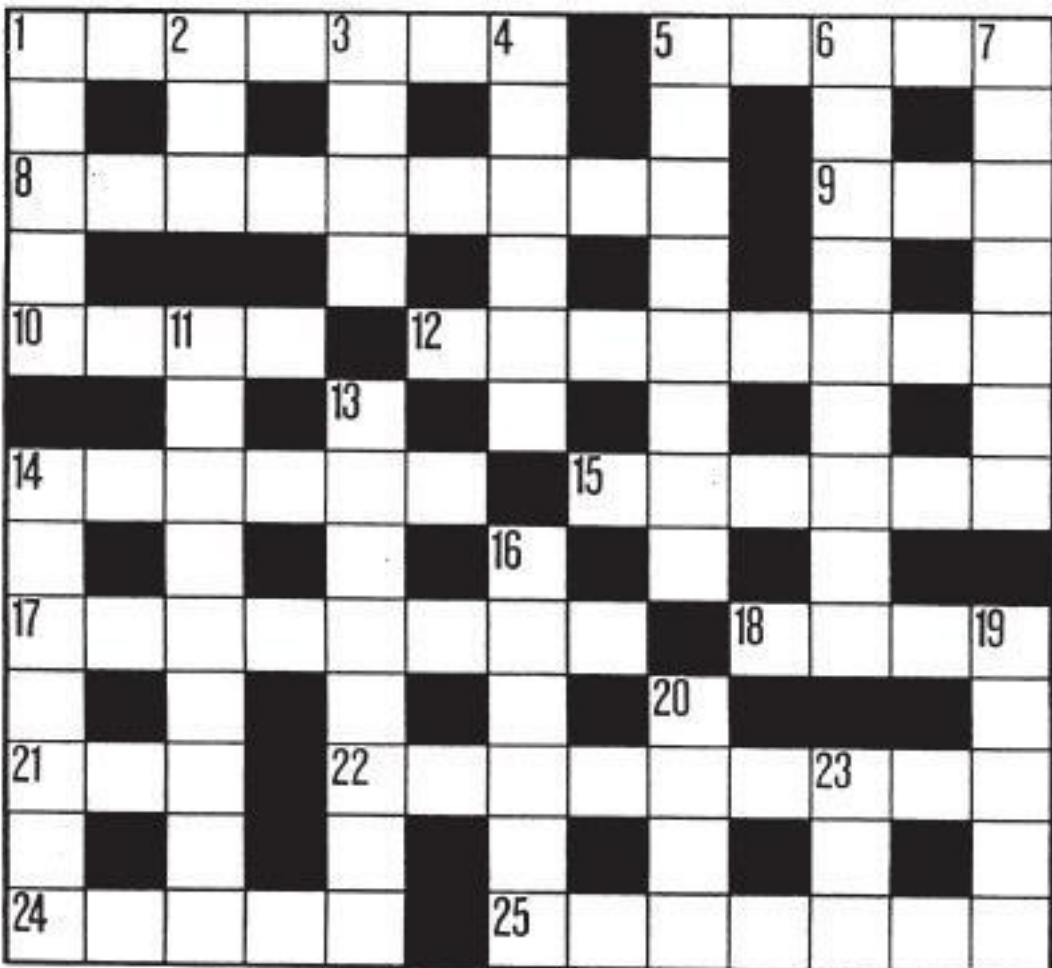
There is no evidence that the US foreign policy was influenced by

the deal, but the charges cut to the bone. Joe Biden had to promise during the Presidential stumping that no one in his family will hold a job with a foreign corporation or government.

This incident, however, leads to the assumption that the US under Biden might not be thinking of a zero-sum game against China, as is being fondly imagined in many quarters in India. The vaccine dust-up apart, the Quad merely renewed the long-pending promise of meeting acute Indian strategic interest in critical and emerging technology by setting up a working group. This leads to the apprehension whether the current contradictions between the US and China have a temporary character? The Donald Trump-Mike Pompeo duo, which put the Quad in high gear, in contrast had an existentialist fear of China putting an end to the American exceptionalism that has ruled the world after World War II.

There is certainly a vacuum as multilateralism has fallen short. This has led the trend to move towards groups of countries that can work together. But Biden's national security policies premised on a "growing rivalry with China" are grating with the on-ground situation. This may have led Jaishankar to issue two clarifications within a week about India seeing no dividend in forming a military block with the Quad in the Indo-Pacific.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Forecast, 5 Scar, 9 Adieu, 10 Elegant, 11 Come a cropper, 13 Hasten, 14 Listen, 17 In the balance, 20 Assured, 21 In all, 22 Deed, 23 Standard.
Down: 1 Flag, 2 Ruinous, 3 Cause celebre, 4 Sketch, 6 Clasp, 7 Retiring, 8 Denomination, 12 Thailand, 15 Toccata, 16 Bandit, 18 Taste, 19 Clad.

SU DO KU

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | | | 1 | | | |
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| | | 6 | 9 | | | 5 | |
| | | | 8 | | 3 | | 6 |

HARD

CALENDAR

APRIL 23, 2021, FRIDAY

| | |
|---|------|
| ■ Vikrami Samvat | 2078 |
| ■ Shaka Samvat | 1943 |
| ■ Vaisakh Shaka | 3 |
| ■ Vaisakh Parvishte | 11 |
| ■ Hijari | 1442 |
| ■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 11, up to 9:48 pm | |
| ■ Vridha Yoga up to 11:39 am | |
| ■ Magha Nakshatra up to 7:42 am | |
| Moon in Leo sign | |
| Gandmool up to 7.42 am | |

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| SUNSET: | FRIDAY | 18:55 HRS |
| SUNRISE: | SATURDAY | 05:46 HRS |
| Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Cloudy |
| Rainy | Foggy | |
| CITY | MAX | MIN |
| Chandigarh | 30 | 17 |
| New Delhi | 35 | 20 |
| Amritsar | 27 | 15 |
| Bathinda | 24 | 17 |
| Jalandhar | 27 | 15 |
| Ludhiana | 28 | 15 |
| Bhiwani | 33 | 19 |
| Hisar | 32 | 17 |
| Sirsa | 32 | 18 |
| Dharamsala | 20 | 08 |
| Manali | 15 | 03 |
| Shimla | 17 | 04 |
| Srinagar | 17 | 08 |
| Jammu | 27 | 16 |
| Kargil | 05 | -02 |
| Leh | 01 | -07 |
| Dehradun | 32 | 16 |
| Mussoorie | 20 | 08 |

TEMPERATURE IN °C

No oxygen shortage as 4 plants functional

1,774 fresh Covid cases, 18 fatalities

Work on three more plants to be completed by month-end | May have to seek help if cases continue to rise

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 22 While four of the proposed seven PSA (pressure swing adsorption) oxygen generating plants in the state have become functional, work on three remains to be completed even as the demand is escalating in view of rise in Covid cases in the hill state. The active cases have steadily increased in Himachal from 218 on February 23, 2021, to around 11,000 in a short span of time. The surge being observed in the second wave is much higher and steeper than the case progression in the first wave, leading to fear gripping the people, who are flocking hospitals even in case of a viral or flu. “Four of the proposed plants at Zonal Hospital,

COMPARATIVE DATA

| DATE | SAMPLES | NEW CASES | DEATHS | POSITIVITY | FATALITY |
|----------|---------|-----------|--------|------------|----------|
| April 1 | 7,224 | 409 | 4 | 5.66 | 0.988 |
| April 4 | 3,840 | 404 | 10 | 10.52 | 2.48 |
| April 5 | 4,580 | 56 | 6 | 12.38 | 1.06 |
| April 10 | 8,338 | 941 | 12 | 11.29 | 1.28 |
| April 15 | 5,988 | 1,034 | 11 | 17.27 | 1.06 |
| April 20 | 10,333 | 1,340 | 16 | 12.97 | 1.19 |
| April 21 | 9,423 | 1,692 | 17 | 17.96 | 1.00 |
| April 22 | 8,189 | 1,352 | 18 | 16.51 | 1.33 |

BED STRENGTH 2,300, BEING ENHANCED TO 3,000

All 137 beds for Covid patients at the IGMC, Shimla, and 70 at Mashobra are full while 63 of the 90 beds at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in Shimla are occupied. Himachal at present has 2,300 beds for Covid patients, and the number is being raised to 3,000.

Dharamsala, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital (Shimla), Ner Chowk (Mandi) and Medical College (Nahan) have become operational to meet the demand for oxygen in case of Covid patients,” revealed Amitabh

Awasthy, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare. He said as of now there was no shortage of oxygen anywhere in the state. “With the regular supply at these four plants besides additional dependence on

ENOUGH TO MEET DEMAND FOR 20 DAYS

With regular supply at these four plants, besides additional dependence on cylinder, the state will be able to meet its requirement for the next 20 days even if positive cases continue to mount at the same pace as being witnessed.

Amitabh Awasthy, SECRETARY, HEALTH

state is meeting its escalated oxygen requirement if cases continue to mount at the same pace, Himachal might have to seek help from outside. All the 137 beds for Covid patients at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, and 70 at Mashobra are full while 63 of the 90 beds at Deen Dayal Upadhyay here are occupied. This clearly indicates that the need for hospitalisation is rising. Himachal presently has a total bed capacity of 2,300 for Covid patients, which is being enhanced to 3,000.

The work at the other proposed PSA oxygen plants at the medical colleges at Hamirpur and Tanda in Kangra is expected to be complete by April 30. The work has been held up as the staff engaged for the

work has rushed to the high load states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The work here is scheduled to resume by April 25. “Since the work that remains to be complete is minor, we are hopeful that once the staff deputed by Government of India for the purpose resumes work, the oxygen plants would come into operation from May 1,” said Awasthy.

There is concern among the general public as well the health department regarding some person who have tested positive not adhering to the norm of home isolation. The main reason behind this is the slackened tracing and monitoring mechanism as compared to the last year and a general casualness. Both among the people as well as staff responsible for this task.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 22

There was no respite on the Covid front as 1,774 fresh cases were reported today. Besides, 18 death occurred in the past 24 hours. Six persons died of the virus in Mandi, five in Kangra, two each in Shimla, Hamirpur and Sirmaur and one in Bilaspur.

The number of active cases shot up to 11,859 as the total positive cases rose to 82,876.

The highest of 449 cases was reported in Kangra, followed by 201 in Hamirpur, 189 in Solan, 188 each in Shimla and Mandi, 163 in Una, 119 in Bilaspur, 110 in Sirmaur, 87 in Kullu, 38 in Chamba, 29 in Lahaul and Spiti and 13 in Kinnaur.

STATE TRACKER

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Samples tested | 1419,314 |
| Recovered | 69,747 |
| Active cases | 11,859 |
| Positive cases | 82,876 |
| Deaths | 1,241 |

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

| DISTRICT | +VE | DEATHS |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Una | 5,871 | 94 |
| Solan | 10,672 | 85 |
| Kangra | 13,735 | 286 |
| Chamba | 3,675 | 55 |
| Hamirpur | 5,133 | 62 |
| Sirmaur | 5,492 | 49 |
| Mandi | 12,340 | 153 |
| Bilaspur | 4,350 | 29 |
| Shimla | 13,027 | 309 |
| Kullu | 5,304 | 89 |
| Kinnaur | 1,587 | 17 |
| Lahaul & Spiti | 1,690 | 13 |
| Total | 82,876 | 1,241 |

Free jabs for 18-44 age group

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 22

The state government today decided to provide free of cost vaccination to people between 18 to 44 age group in government health institutions across the state from May 1. The decision was taken by the Cabinet at its meeting chaired by Chief Minister

Jai Ram Thakur here today. A presentation was made on the Covid situation in the state and enhancing facilities at various health institutions was discussed.

It was also decided to constitute mobile teams at the block level to provide better treatment to Covid patients in home isolation. One vehicle would be provided exclusively to shift serious patients to health institutions. It was also decided that each medical college would have a dedicated team headed by a senior doctor to supervise Covid cases.

It was also decided to provide incentives to the outsourced employees engaged in tackling Covid-19 pandemic at Rs 200 per shift. It was also decided that gov-



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presides over the Cabinet meeting in Shimla on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Incentives for outsourced staff; services of daily/ contingent workers to be regularised

ernment, besides providing better treatment to patients under home isolation, would also provide a nutrition kit to Covid patients.

The Cabinet decided to regularize the services of daily/contingent workers who have completed five years of continuous services as on March 31, 2021 or are completing it on September 30, 2021 against the available vacant posts in various departments. It also gave its nod to regularize the services of contractual employees who have completed three years of service

as on March 31, 2021 or are completing service on September 30, 2021 in various departments.

The Cabinet decided to convert the services of part time workers completing eight years of continuous service on March 31, 2021, or are to complete on September 30, 2021 in government departments into daily wagers.

Thakur and his Cabinet colleagues contributed their one-month salary towards CM Covid Fund. The cheques were handed over by the Chief Minister to Chief Secretary Anil Khachi.

HC reverts to virtual hearing

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SHIMLA, APRIL 22

The Himachal High Court has reverted to virtual hearing of cases following the recent spike in Covid-19 cases. It had resumed physical hearing two months ago.

The High Court has ordered through its Registrar General that “keeping in view the rise in Covid-19 cases, the High Court has decided to switch over to virtual hearing till further orders”.

The court order said, “However, in exceptional cases, physical hearing will be held with the consent of the counsels of the contesting parties”.

On the other hand, the members of the District Bar Association has resolved that there will be adjournments in all pending cases till May 7 in the District Courts of Shimla and only proxy counsels will appear.

It has resolved that the counsels of the parties will appear only in those cases where urgent relief is involved and which require their presence or of their clients.

42-yr-old rain record in Shimla broken

86 mm received in 24 hrs in April | Thunderstorm disrupts power supply

BHANU P LOHUMI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 22

A severe hailstorm and thunderstorm accompanied by intermittent heavy rain lashed Shimla and its surrounding areas today, disrupting normal life. Shimla received 86 mm of rain in the past 24 hours, breaking the 42-year-old record of heavy rainfall in one day in April. The temperature in the capital city fell to 4°C. Earlier Shimla had received the maximum rainfall of 111 mm on April 15, 1979.

The thunderstorm disrupted power supply, uprooted trees and blew off roofs of kachcha houses at several places. Dodra Kwar was cut off from the rest of the state. As many as 179 roads in the state were blocked. The highest number of 140 roads was blocked in Lahaul and Spiti district, followed by 16 each in Chamba and Kinnaur, seven in Kullu, and one in Shimla. Tribal areas received another spell of fresh snowfall; Keylong witnessed 18 cm of snow, followed by Kalpa 16



Roads turn white after heavy hailstorm in Shimla on Thursday. PHOTOS: AMIT KANWAR

mm and Kothi 3 mm.

Widespread rain lashed the region. Manali received 74 mm of rain, followed by Jogindernagar 71 mm, Dalhousie 66 mm, Kothi 65 mm, Baijnath 56 mm, Palampur 54 mm, Bhuntar 40 mm, Dharamsala and Narkanda 38 mm each, Sundernagar 37 mm, Tinder 35 mm, Mandi and Tissa 34 mm, Malan 33 mm, Banjar and Chhatrari 32 mm each, Seobagh

31 mm, Jubbar Hatti 28 mm, Janjehli 27 mm, Khadralla and Keylong 26 mm each, Bharari 25 mm, Bhoranj and Bakloh 24 mm each, Bijahi and Bajura 23 mm each, Naina Devi and Karsog 22 mm each, Kasol and Sangla 21 mm each, Moorang 20 mm and Ghumarwin and Bilaspur 18 mm each.

The local Met office has issued a yellow warning of a thunderstorm and lightning

at isolated places in Bilaspur, Shimla and Sirmaur districts tomorrow. It has also predicted a wet spell in the region on April 23, 24 and 28. The minimum temperatures were three to four degrees below normal and Keylong was the coldest at night recording minus 0.7°C. The maximum temperatures were nine to 10 degrees below normal and Nahan with 26.7°C was the hottest.

| GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sr. No. | NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH | OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO. | NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP./ AUTH | NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
| 1 | HVPNL | NIT NO. 1/AMB/SONDA 220KV SHAHABAD/2021-22 DATED 06.04.2021 | THE TENDER WAS TO BE OPENED ON DATED 20.04.2021. NOW DATE EXTENDED UP TO 27.04.2021 DUE TO NON TURNING UP MINIMUM BIDDERS I.E. 3 NO. BIDDERS | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 2 | HVPNL | NIT NO 25/TS/BHW/2020-21 DATED 11.02.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_159532_1) | DUE TO 2 NO. BIDS RECEIVED OUT OF 3 NO. BIDS, HENCE THE CORRIGENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 28.04.2021 AT 13.00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF BID 11.02.2021 AT 12.25 HRS. | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 3 | HVPNL | NIT NO. 23/TS/BHW/2020-21 DATED 24.02.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_159504_2) | DUE TO 2 NO. BIDS RECEIVED OUT OF 3 NO. BIDS, HENCE THE CORRIGENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 28.04.2021 AT 13.00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF BID 24.02.2021 AT 13.40 HRS. | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 4 | HVPNL | NIT NO. 26/TS/BHW/2020-21 DATED 11.02.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_159539_1) | DUE TO 2 NO. BIDS RECEIVED OUT OF 3 NO. BIDS, HENCE THE CORRIGENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 28.04.2021 AT 13.00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF BID 11.02.2021 AT 13.40 HRS. | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 5 | HVPNL | NIT NO. 27/TS/BHW/2020-21 DATED 11.02.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_159550_1) | DUE TO 2 NO. BIDS RECEIVED OUT OF 3 NO. BIDS, HENCE THE CORRIGENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 28.04.2021 AT 13.00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF BID 11.02.2021 AT 13.05 HRS. | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 6 | HVPNL | NIT NO. 34/2020-21/XEN/TS/PKL DATED 26.03.2021 | DUE TO LESS NO. OF BIDS THIS TENDER IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 28.04.2021 (13.00 HRS). | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 7 | HVPNL | NIT NO. 33/2020-21/XEN/TS/PKL DATED 02.04.2021 | DUE TO LESS NO. OF BIDS THIS TENDER IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 27.04.2021 (13.00 HRS). | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| 8 | HVPNL | RE-TENDER/NIT NO. 28/TS/BHW/2020-21 DATED 22.03.2021(ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_159561_2) | DUE TO 2 NO. BIDS RECEIVED OUT OF 3 NO. BIDS, HENCE THE CORRIGENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 28.04.2021 AT 13.00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF BID 22.03.2021 AT 13.00 HRS. | www.hpv.n.org.in | 01722583789 pro@hvp.n.org.in |
| FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in | | | | PRDH/13/2022/160/2679/1131/4 | |

| GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA | | | | | | | TENDER NOTICE | |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------|--|
| SR. NO. | NAME OF DEPARTMENT | NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER | OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE | AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT | NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAIL/ E-MAIL | | |
| 1 | PWD B&R, AMBALA | CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD TO ALTERNATE ROAD FROM ROB ON SAHA - SHAHABAD ROAD KM. 62.80 FROM NEW HARYANA STATE HIGHWAY NO. 31 (NOW NH 444 A) VIA GHASITPUR TO NEW HARYANA STATE HIGHWAY (ID 345) & CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD TO NEW HARYANA STATE HIGHWAY TO NANGLA TO HARYOLI (ROAD ID 312) IN AMBALA DISTRICT | 16.04.2021 06.05.2021 | 201.10 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 9417362462 pww-eeepd2-ambala@hry.nic.in | | |
| 2 | PWD B&R, YAMUNA NAGAR | DISMANTLING AND DISPOSAL OF MATERIAL OF EXISTING/DAMAGED STRUCTURE IN THE CAMPUS OF CHC RADOUR IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (FOR UPGRADEATION OF CHC RADOUR FROM 30 BEDDED TO 50 BEDDED IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT | 27.04.2021 10.05.2021 | 17.84 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01732-237834 pww-eeepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in | | |
| 3 | PWD B&R, SONIPAT | SPECIAL REPAIR OF INFRASTRUCTURE STRENGTHENING AT VARIOUS SUB HEALTH CENTRE I.E. BHIGAN, RAJPUR, DATAULI AND CHIRASMI ETC. IN GANAUAR CONSTITUENCY IN SONIPAT DISTT. FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 (UPGRADATION INTO AB-HWCS) | 15.04.2021 05.05.2021 | 18.24 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 0130-2200575 pww-eeepd2-sonapat@hry.nic.in | | |
| 4 | PWD B&R, GURUGRAM | PROVIDING HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES INCLUDING FRONT DESK AND OTHER STAFF, FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES VIZ. MECHANISED HOUSE KEEPING, MANAGEMENT OF FRONT OFFICE, RECEPTION, MAINTENANCE AND PROVISION OF MANPOWER IN SWARAN JAYANTI STATE PWD REST HOUSE GURUGRAM | CLOSING DATE 12.05.2021 | 360.83 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO. 2021_HRY_169465_1 | 0124281101 pww-eeepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in | | |
| 5 | PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL | 32 WORKS CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF GREY WATER PROJECT | 21.04.2021 28.04.2021 | 1185.05 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 0184-2262916 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in | | |
| 6 | PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL | 1 WORK CONST. OF PARK INCLUDING E.I. WORKS VILLAGE SALWAN, 1 WORK CONST. OF BRICK PAVEMENT OF RASTA AND 2 OTHER WORKS | 21.04.2021 28.04.2021 | 154.49 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 0184-2262916 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in | | |
| 7 | PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIRSA | BEHARWALA KHURD- LAYING OF RISING MAIN FOR RAW WATER ARRANGEMENT FROM WW DHOLPALIA TO BEHARWALA KHURD (UNDER JUMI) BEHARWALA KHURD- CONSTRUCTION OF ONE NO. SUMP WELL OF SIZE 3.65X2.43X1.44 MTR., ONE NO. PUMP CHAMBER OF SIZE 3.05X3.66 MTR. | 20.04.2021 06.05.2021 | 23.90 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | ee3sirsaa@pshedharyana.gov.in | | |
| 8 | IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, HARYANA, KARNAL | PROVIDING & FIXING OF INFORMATION/DATA BOARDS ON CHANNELS AND DRAINS OF KARNAL W/S SUB DIVISION, KARNAL + 3 OTHER WORKS | 19.04.2021 28.04.2021 | 20.59 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01842255291 knlidvnr335@gmail.com | | |
| 9 | IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, HARYANA, NARNAUL | REHABILITATION OF NARNAUL MINOR FROM KM 0.000 TO 3.278 (TAIL) + 9 OTHER WORKS | CLOSING DATE 05.05.2021 | 244.78 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01282251214 xen-wsnnl.rrr@gov.in | | |
| 10 | IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, HARYANA, KURUKSHETRA | CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE SYPHON AT RD 5460 BICHIKI SUB MINOR FOR PROTECTION OF ABADI AREA OF VILLAGES BICHIKI & PIPLI MAJRA AND AGRICULTURAL LAND | 21.04.2021 26.04.2021 | 11.92 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01744-23164 xenwsdvnrkrra@gmail.com | | |
| 11 | PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, KATHAL | DEEG - ESTIMATE FOR STRENGTHENING OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (PHTO) TO HOUSEHOLD TO VILLAGE DEEG TEHSIL AND DISTT. KATHAL UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION) PHASE-2ND + 9 OTHER WORKS | 22.04.2021 12.05.2021 | 239.13 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01746222250 eekathal@gmail.com | | |
| 12 | PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, NARNAUL | BHOJAWAS, LAYING OF 50 MM I/D GI PIPELINE FOR MAKING WATER TANKI CONNECTION ON BUS STAND IN VILLAGE BHOJAWAS UNDER HEAD RURAL AUGMENTATION, DISTRICT MOHINDERGARH (E/COST RS. 4.05 LACS) + 7 OTHER WORKS | 22.04.2021 05.05.2021 | 48.41 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01282-251259 eenarnaul@gmail.com | | |
| FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in | | | | | | | | |
| PRDH/11/2022/240/2684/11/31/4 | | | | | | | | |

Bara Bhangal cut off after snow in Dhauladhars

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, APRIL 22

Upper reaches of Dhauladhar hills and high-altitude areas of Palampur experienced heavy snowfall in the past 20 hours while lower areas were lashed by heavy rain. The entire region is in the grip of a severe cold wave. Heavy snow and rain are expected in the next 24 hours.

Bara Bhangal was cut off from the rest of the world following heavy snowfall at the Thamsar Pass located at a height of 19,000 feet. Rajgunda, Kothi Kohar and upper reaches of the Lolar Pass also experienced heavy snow.

Normal life in the Palampur region was paralysed following snowfall and rain. Power supply and transport services were also hit. Many parts of Palampur, Baijnath, Jaisinghpur, Chhota Bhangal and adjoining areas remained without power following a snag in the transmission lines feeding many parts of Kangra.

Vehicular traffic to Chhota Bhangal and Billing has come to standstill. The district administration has suspended paragliding at Bir Billing. It has advised tourists and locals not to visit Billing as the roads are slippery and blocked at many points following rain and snowfall.

Untimely snow leaves apple growers jittery

SHIMLA, APRIL 22

The cold wave sweeping the region has left apple growers worried. For the past three days, rain, hailstorm and snow have lashed apple-growing belt in Shimla and Kinnaur.

“It has been snowing here intermittently for the last three days. The snow has occurred at the time of flowering, causing damage,” said Narayan Negi from Reckong Peo in Kinnaur. He further said it had snowed 7-8 inches almost everywhere in Kinnaur, leading to anxiety among the growers. “It’s rare to have snowfall post mid-April and that too 7-8 inches. I feel our 60 per cent crop has damaged. Trees too have suffered damage,” he said.

Many places, including Narkanda, have been hit by hailstorm that has caused more damage than the snow. “We had seen a fierce hailstorm on Wednesday for about half an hour. It tore apart the anti-hail nets, broke the structure supporting the nets, and damaged flowers,” said Rajesh Sharma from Narkanda.

Harish Chauhan, an orchardist from Rohru, said the disturbance in weather would adversely affect the production. “The weather has become unpredictable for the last few years. The government and other stakeholders will need to see if it’s because of climate change. The government should also assess the damage growers have suffered,”



A RARE SIGHT

It’s rare to have snowfall post mid-April and that too 7-8 inches. I feel our 60% crop has damaged. Trees too have suffered damage. A farmer

said Chauhan.

SP Bhardwaj, a former joint director with the Naini university, has different point of view. He said snowfall and rain would not have adverse effect on crop setting unless petals were damaged. “The amount of rain we have had will have a positive effect on the crop. Now, plants can do without rain for at least one and a half month, and it will also help fruit attain a bigger size,” he said. — TNS



Kin rush to see a woman who fainted during cremation of a Covid victim in Jammu on Thursday. PTI

8 Covid deaths; enrolment for Amarnath yatra halted

1,965 fresh cases; cumulative tally 1,54,407

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, APRIL 22 J&K on Thursday recorded 1,965 fresh Covid cases that took the Union Territory’s cumulative tally to 1,54,407 while eight more fatalities pushed the death toll to 2,092. Of the fresh cases, 1,176 were reported from Kashmir division and 789 from Jammu, officials said. Srinagar district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 590, followed by 469 in Jammu and 198 in Baramulla. There are 16,094 active cases. So far, 1,36,221 patients have recovered from the disease, officials added.

IT’S TEMPORARY

“In view of the evolving Covid situation, registration for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is being temporarily suspended. Shri Amarnath Shrine Board

Meanwhile, registration of pilgrims for the upcoming annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas has been temporarily suspended due to Covid.

The 56-day yatra to the 3,880-metre-high shrine is scheduled to start from the

twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal on June 28 and culminate on August 22.

“In view of the evolving Covid situation and the need to take all necessary precautionary measures, registration for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is being temporarily suspended,” the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) announced on its twitter handle on Thursday.

It further said that the situation was being constantly monitored and the registration would be reopened once the situation improves. — PTI

Decision on STF arbitrary, says Tarigami

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22 CPM leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Thursday said there was no need for the J&K administration to constitute a special task force (STF) to deal with government employees allegedly involved in “anti-national activities” as there were already enough provisions in the law to act against such people.

The administration on Wednesday set up a STF for identifying and scrutinising cases of employees involved in “suspected activities” against the government.

“The latest order can serve as a tool for the government and bureaucrats to suppress their subordinates. A sword of uncertainty has been kept on the heads of employees which can also be exploited by their superiors,” he added.

Dismissing an employee or taking punitive action against him without holding any inquiry is against the principles of justice and basic rights, Tarigami said.

“An employee is first a citizen and has all the constitutional rights. The need is to safeguard these constitutional rights,” he added. Demanding a review, he said such measures deepen anger and discontentment among the ranks of employees. — TNS

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22 Several areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Thursday while the plains were lashed by rains, officials said.

The wet spell has brought down the temperature in the valley. The world-famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district also received fresh snowfall on Thursday, the officials said.

It was snowing in Sonamarg resort in Ganderbal and Machil area in Kupwara till last reports came in, they said.

There are reports of light snowfall in some other areas in the higher reaches of the valley as well while the plains of the Kashmir Valley were lashed by rains since early



A woman walks amid snowfall in Ganderbal district. PTI

morning, the officials added. The Meteorological (MeT) office forecast widespread light to moderate rains and snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday and said there is a possibility of rains at isolated places on Friday.

day as well. The current wet spell is likely to continue till Friday after which the weather is expected to improve, the MeT office said, adding that it is likely to stay mainly dry till the month-end. — PTI

Security personnel seize grenade, ammo in Samba

JAMMU, APRIL 22 Security forces conducted search operations at two places in Jammu and Kashmir’s Samba district and recovered a rusted grenade and ammunition, officials said on Thursday.

A CRPF and police party launched a search operation in Khidya village in the Bari Brahmana area and recovered

one rusted grenade, 191 rounds of ammunition and 230 charger clips on Wednesday night, they said.

The other search operation was conducted by a joint team in the border belt of Chak Mangu area after a tip-off about some suspected movement. Drones were also used in the operation. — PTI

Two arrested for murder

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22 The police on Thursday claimed to have solved a murder case in Baramulla district by arresting the victim’s wife and her paramour. Muhammad Altaf Malik (34) was found dead on the intervening night of March 8 and 9 at Renji village in Baramulla. The body was buried, but later exhumed for post-mortem on the request of the victim’s brother who suspected foul play. It was found that his wife Tasleema Begum and her paramour Ghulam Muhammad Dar had bludgeoned him to death, the police said. — IANS

Guard hurt as militants loot bank in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22 A security guard was injured on Thursday as three militants dressed in hazmat suits looted a bank branch in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, the police said.

The militants armed with pistol looted the Jammu and Kashmir Bank at Khore Sher-

₹6 LAKH TAKEN AWAY

- The robbers looted about Rs 6 lakh from a branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank at Khore Sherabad’s Pattan area
- They fled in a vehicle that was parked outside the bank. Efforts are on to nab them, the police said

abad in Pattan area of North Kashmir, a police official said.

“They fled in a vehicle which was parked outside the

bank branch,” he said.

The official said the militants also injured a security guard posted at the branch.

The robbers looted about Rs 6 lakh from the bank branch, he added.

The police have registered a case and a hunt has been launched to nab them. — PTI

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AMRITSAR
LOCAL GOVT. DEPTT. PUNJAB
NIT No. 12/2021 (Re-Call)
Date: 20/04/2021
No. S.E.(C)/NIT/134
The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar invites tenders on Online Two bid system from eligible bidders, Firms/Agencies/ General Contractors and Co-op Societies etc. for development works.

- Last Date of submission Dated 06.05.2021 till 12:00 Noon and opening of Technical Bid: 06.05.2021 at 03:00 p.m.
- EMD 2% of Estimated amount for Firms/Agencies/General Contractors etc.
- For further specification, terms & Conditions, Kindly visit: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- Name of work/Corrigendum/Addendum and Amendment shall be published in the above said website only.

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

DPR/Pb/3892

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING OF e-TENDERS (2021-22)
eproc.punjab.gov.in
E-Tender Notice PWSSB/Divn. 2/HASR/C-21 Date: 22.04.2021
On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab W/S & Sewerage Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sewerage Division No. 2, Amritsar invites online percentage basis tenders from the approved Contractor/Firms and eligible Co-operative L&C societies who fulfill the eligible criteria as per DNIT for the work mentioned below:

| Sr. No. | Name of the Work | Bid Security/ Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (Rs.) | Period of Completion | Estimated Cost (in Lacs) |
|---------|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | DNIT for Providing and Laying Water Supply DI K-7 pipeline, House Connection, Restoration of Roads, Providing & Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Generating set at STP site and all other works contingent thereto at Shri Hargobindpur, Distt. Gurdaspur. (Under HUDCO Loan). | 2% of approved DNIT | 1000/- As applicable | 6 Months | Rs. 239.52 |

Important Dates are as under:

- Period of availability of tender online shall be : Up to 22.04.2021 to 05.05.2021 up to 01:00 P.M.
- Last Date and Time for online submission of Bids shall be : 05.05.2021 up to 01:00 P.M.
- Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bids shall be : 05.05.2021 at 03:00 P.M.

For detailed terms and conditions refer to website eproc.punjab.gov.in. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

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

DPR/Pb/3897

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(PSPCL Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
(O/o Dy. Chief Engineer/TL Circle Jalandhar)
Address: Office Room No. 310-311, 2nd Floor, Shakti Sadan, Near Khalsa College, G.T. Road, Jalandhar
Telephone No. & Fax No. 0181 2975617, Mobile No. 9646107248
E-mail: seetjalandhar@gmail.com
PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S Weber Transmissions D-24 Phase-1 Industrial Area Mohali was allotted Work-cum-Allotment Order No. 22/TL Circle/2015-16, 5517 dt. 29.07.2015 and Amendment No. 1 was issued vide this office Memo No. 2605 dt. 10.04.2017 for Construction of 66KV line from 220 KV S/S Rashiana to 66 KV S/S Focal Point Tarn Taran. But the aforementioned firm has failed to complete the work till date. It has not responded to various registered letters written by Sr. Xen TL Divn. Jalandhar and this office viz:- Sr. Xen TL Divn.

Jalandhar registered Memo No. 939 dt. 27.02.2018 and this office registered Memo No. 1315/16 dt. 07.03.2018. Also the following registered letters have been received back from the Postal authorities with the following remarks:-

This office letter No. 175 dt. 07.01.2019. "addressee left"

This office letter No. (Final Notice) 992 dt 12.02.2021. "No Such firm in D-24"

In view of above it is crystal clear that the aforesaid firm has left business is non-existent at present and thus not willing to do the balance work. So M/S Weber Transmissions is hereby issued notice through this publication to contact this office latest by 05.05.2021 failing which the Work-cum-Allotment Order issued to it will be cancelled without any further notice. The penalties will be levied as per rules and regulations of PSPCL and recoveries will be effected accordingly.

Sd/- Er. Ravinder Singh,
Dy. Chief Engineer, TL Circle Jalandhar.

DPR/HP/394

Government of Punjab
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (B&R Works)
NIT No. 06/SE(TIC), dated 22.04.2021
The department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (B&R) invites online Double Bids for 01 No. work as per schedule given below:-

| Pre Bid Meeting | Last Date of online Submission of Bidding Document | Opening of bidding Documents | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| | | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| 10.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the office of SE(TIC), Zone-A, MCL | 17.05.2021 up to 5:00 p.m. | 18.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Office of SE (TIC), Zone A, MCL | Will be intimated later on |

For details login to: eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note:- Detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

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

DPR/Pb/3911

ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ
ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਚਾਈਲਡ ਲੇਬਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ
ਦਫਤਰ ਵਧੀਕ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ (ਵਿਕਾਸ), ਮਿੰਨੀ ਸਕੱਤਰੇਤ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਚਾਈਲਡ ਲੇਬਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਅਧੀਨ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਧੀਕ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ (ਵਿਕਾਸ), ਮਿੰਨੀ ਸਕੱਤਰੇਤ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਸਾਲ ਲਈ ਨਿੱਤਰਿ ਲੋੜਾਂ ਆਧਾਰ 'ਤੇ 1 ਅਸਾਮੀ (ਲੇਬਾਰਰ) ਦੀ ਭਰਤੀ ਲਈ ਯੋਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਬਿਨੈ ਪੱਤਰ ਵਾਰਮੇਟ, ਵਿੱਦਿਅਕ ਯੋਗਤਾਵਾਂ, ਲੋੜੀਂਦਾ ਤਜਰਬਾ, ਜ਼ਿਜ਼ਰਵੇਨਸ ਉਮਰ, ਹੋਰ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ www.ludhiana.nic 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਅਸਾਮੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕੋਈ ਸ਼ੱਕ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਅਪਲੋਡ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਯੋਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਆਪਣੇ ਬਿਨੈ ਪੱਤਰ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ, ਕਮਰਾ ਨੰ. 5, ਪਹਿਲੀ ਮੰਜ਼ਿਲ, ਦਫਤਰ ਵਧੀਕ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ (ਵਿਕਾਸ), ਮਿੰਨੀ ਸਕੱਤਰੇਤ, ਨੇੜੇ ਭਾਰਤ ਨਗਰ ਚੌਕ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, ਪਿੰਨ ਕੋਡ 141001, ਫੋਨ ਨੰ. 0161-2401347 ਵਿਖੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਡਾਕ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਦਸਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਅੰਤਿਮ ਮਿਤੀ 07.05.2021 ਤੱਕ ਦਫਤਰੀ ਰੋਮ-ਕਮਰ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਸਵੇਰੇ 9.00 ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਅਧੂਰੇ ਬਿਨੈ ਪੱਤਰ, ਬਿਨੈ ਫੀਸ ਅਤੇ ਅੰਤਿਮ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਏ ਬਿਨੈ ਪੱਤਰ ਰੱਦ ਸਮਝੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ। ਕੇਵਲ ਸ਼ਾਰਟਲਿਸਟਿੰਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਖਿਆ, ਟਾਈਪਿੰਗ ਟੈਸਟ ਅਤੇ ਇੰਟਰਵਿਊ ਲਈ ਸੱਦਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

Sd/- ਵਧੀਕ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ (ਵਿਕਾਸ)-,
ਕਮ-ਪ੍ਰੋਜੈਕਟ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਐਨ.ਸੀ.ਐਲ.ਪੀ., ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।

DPR/Pb-3899

E-TENDER NOTICE
CONTROLLER OF STORES
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES, UDYOG BHAWAN, BEMLOE, SHIMLA – 171001
E-TENDER NOTICE NUMBER: 01/2021-2022(SP)
Official Website: www.emerginghimachal.hp.gov.in
TELE/FAX No. 0177-2812613
E-mail ID: tenders-ind-hp@nic.in

Tenders bids are electronically invited for the supply of following stores items up to **10:30 a.m.** on the dates referred against each item and will be opened on same date at **11:00 a.m.** If the opening date happens to be a closed day then the tenders will be opened on the next working day.

The descriptions given below are in brief. The Complete details including tender form, tender schedules (referred in e-tendering as Bill of Quantity) and terms & conditions will be available for downloading from 30.04.2021 at 05:00 p.m. onwards from website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The bid shall be filled in electronic format on the schedule- "A" (BOQ) of the concerned item on the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender form is Rs. 500/- per set which is non-refundable and Earnest Money shall be submitted in the online mode only.

| Sr. No. | Item code | Name of item | Who can participate in the tender | Date of opening of tender |
|---------|-----------|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1. | M-61 (02) | Highway Guard Rail System (Crash Barrier) | Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers can participate. | 27.05.2021 |
| 2. | M-58 | Fire Fighting Equipments | Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers can participate. | 27.05.2021 |
| 3. | C-02 (01) | Alumino Ferric (ISI Marked) | Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers can participate. | 28.05.2021 |
| 4. | M-84 | HSD Steel Bars (ISI Marked) | Only Manufacturers can participate. | 28.05.2021 |
| 5. | U-01 | Sports Goods & Wears | Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers can participate. | 29.05.2021 |
| 6. | E-18 | Electric Motors (ISI Marked) | Only Manufacturers can participate. | 29.05.2021 |

NOTE:-

- The detailed instructions in respect of processing of e-tender are available on department website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The interested bidders are requested to go through the above website for details.
- The concerned user Departments/Boards are advised to go through the e-tender notice and schedules on the website for clerical mistakes/change in specifications, if required and the same may be reported immediately to the undersigned.

Controller of Stores,
Himachal Pradesh.

DPR/HP/394

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Bilaspur invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Estimated Cost | EMD Cost of Tender | Time of Completion | Cost of Form |
|---------|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Retrofitting and source level augmentation of various left out habitations under JJM 3rd Phase of Jal Shakti Sub-Division, Swarghat and Bassi in Tehsil Sh. Naina Devi Ji, District Bilaspur. JSV Sub-Division Swarghat (SH) Demolition of old pump house, C/o pump house at Lakhala 39.37 Sqmt, construction of sump well 16000 litr cap at Node-A (Lakhala), C/o main storage tank 31000 litr cap at Node-B (Patherwali), C/o sub storage 12000 litr cap. at node-C (Lakhala), C/o main storage tank 31000 litr capacity at node-C (Pulacher) and sanitary protection of various civil structures). | 2569324/- | 46050/- | Six Months | 400/- |

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering **07.05.2021 up to 11.00 A.M.**
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Bilaspur.
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK
DPR/HP/410

PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
VATAVARAN BHAWAN, NABHA ROAD, PATIALA
Phone-0175-2200282, TELE-FAX-0175-2215802,
E-mail-msppcb@gmail.com
PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of all concerned that **M/s Shri Ambeey Steel Industries** has submitted an application to **Punjab Pollution Control Board** for conduct of public hearing for expansion of Steel manufacturing unit to enhance its production capacity to manufacture MS Billets/Concast Billets/Flats/H.R. Coil/TMT Bars/Pipes @ 189400 TPA from 29400 TPA, by installing 2 No. induction Furnaces of 15 T/heat each at Peer Gajju Shah Road, Village Alour, Tehsil Khanna, District Ludhiana, Punjab. The project is covered under the EIA notification No. S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14.9.2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, New Delhi and thus, the industry is required to obtain Environmental Clearance from State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, (SEIAA), Punjab. As a part of the procedure for seeking environmental clearance, as notified by MoEF&CC, the industry has applied to the Punjab Pollution Control Board for conduct of the public hearing of its proposed expansion project. The draft Rapid Environment Impact Assessment study report along with executive summary (in English & Punjabi) of the project submitted by the industry is available in the following offices, which can be perused during the office hours on any working day:

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

Notice is, hereby, given to all concerned to file suggestions, views, comments and objections, if any, on the proposed project, to the **Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala, within 30 days of the publication of this notice.** Besides, a public hearing will also be held on **24.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m.** onwards at the industrial site located at **Peer Gajju Shah Road, Village Alour, Tehsil Khanna, District Ludhiana, Punjab**, which can be attended by any person including bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at the project site/site of displacement/site likely to be affected. Oral/written suggestions, if any, can also be made during the public hearing. Operative guidelines issued by the Govt. regarding Covid appropriate behavior and restrictions shall be applicable. No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the public hearing.

MEMBER SECRETARY

DPR/Pb/3905

HP JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE FOR E-TENDERING
The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Solan invites e-tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms for the following work through e-tendering process:

| Sr. No. | Name of work | Estimated Cost | Earnest Money | Time of Completion | Tender ID | Cost of form | Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering up to |
|---------|---|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---|
| 1. | Providing LWSS Steel and adjoining villages in GP Top Ki Ber Tehsil and Dieth, Solan, H.P. (SH)-C/o Raw water sump well cap. 6500 liters, Sedimentation tank cap. 101000 liters, Filter bed, Pump well cap. 101000, Main storage tank cap. 101000, Sector storage tank cap. 27500 liters, Pump house, Pumping machinery, Rising main, Distribution system and protection work). | 1,28,97,837/- | 1,62,000/- | Two years | 2021_HPHPH_46758_1 | 1500/- | 04.05.2021 up to 11 a.m. |

The tenders forms and other detailed can be obtained from website <http://hptenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Solan.

DPR/HP/403

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Hospital Engineer (Const.), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director PGIMER, Chandigarh online Percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class in CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB/MC Chandigarh/State PWDS/HUDA/PUDA/State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Civil Works on two bid system (Eligibility Bid & Financial Bid) for the following works:-

- NIT No.:** PGI/Engg./Const./2021/023, **Name of Work:** Addition/Alteration in the Biostatistics Department at Level-II, Cabot Block, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER, Chandigarh. (SH: Civil work), **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 11.84 Lakh, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 23,680/-, **Period of Completion:** 2 Months, **Last date and time of submission of Bid:** 28.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M., **Last date & time for submission of Original EMD:** 29.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M., **Date and time of opening of Eligibility Bid:** 29.04.2021 at 03:30 P.M.
- NIT No.:** PGI/Engg./Const./2021/024, **Name of Work:** Providing and fixing wire gauge shutters in Type IX, X, XI, XII, XIII and XIV Houses, PGI Staff Colony, Sector 24, Chandigarh, **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 45.39 Lakh, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 90,780/-, **Period of Completion:** 4 Months, **Last date and time of submission of Bid:** 28.04.2021 up to 03:00 P.M., **Last date & time for submission of Original EMD:** 29.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M., **Date and time of opening of Eligibility Bid:** 29.04.2021 at 03:30 P.M.

The Original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of H.E. (Construction) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in. The Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, for participating in e-tendering process (Helpdesk No. for registration - 9988447883). For any technical information Contact (0172-2755861, 7687008869).

DI-1461 Hospital Engineer (Construction)

POLICE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT KINNAUR (HP)
INVITATION OF TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING OF WATER CARRIER IN PSs/PPs/CPs IN DISTRICT KINNAUR

The Office of the Superintendent of Police, District Kinnaur at R/Peo intends to avail the services of an agency for the 07 posts of Water Carrier in various PSs/PPs/CPs of this district for the period of **one year** from the date of agreement/contract.

Interested parties may submit the Annexure 'II' & Annexure 'III' fully filled up. Both the Annexures should be kept in separate sealed envelope which may be **subscribed as “Annexure II” & “Annexure III”**. These both envelopes be placed in another sealed cover subscribing **“Tender/Rate for services of Water Carrier”** which will be in the name of **“Superintendent of Police, District Kinnaur at R/Peo”**. The service providers will be short listed on the basis of their technical competency after opening of **Annexure II**. Financial bids (**Annexure III**) of only those bidders will be opened by a committee constituted for the purposes, who are short-listed on the basis of their Technical Bids (**Annexure II**). For any clarification in the matter, prior appointment may be made with undersigned.

Tender form showing detail of outsourcing services with material and cost etc. can be had from the Office of the **Superintendent of Police, District Kinnaur at R/Peo** on any working day **on or before 10.05.2021 between 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.** or may be downloaded from HP Police Department website www.kinnaur.police.com. The cost of tender bid form is **Rs. 300/-**.

The Tenders will be received on **11.05.2021 up to 01:00 P.M.** in the Office of the **Superintendent of Police, District Kinnaur at R/Peo** and shall be opened on the same day at **3:00 P.M.** in the presence of all tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to be present.

The **Superintendent of Police, District Kinnaur at R/Peo** reserves the right to postpone or extend the date of receipt/opening of Tender/Bids or to withdraw the same, without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Superintendent of Police,
District Kinnaur at R/Peo.

DPR/HP/29

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION “CORRIGENDUM”

Apropos to advertisement No. 19/2019, published in “The Tribune” and “Divya Himachal” on 9th November, 2019, and detailed advertisement uploaded on Commission’s website (<http://www.hppsc.hp.gov.in/hppsc/>), it is notified for information of all concerned that the Physical Test i.e. measurement of chest & height, the Guidelines as prescribed under Regulation-9 of Appendix-III, Regulations relating to the Physical Examination of candidates, notified by the department of Personnel and Training, Government of India will be complied with as per order passed by the Hon’ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 31.12.2019 in CWP No. 2198/2019 titled as H.P. Public Service Commission Vs. Dipika Chandel & Others, for filling up the posts of HPFS (Assistant Conservator of Forest), Class-I (Gazetted) (on contract basis) in the department of Forest Himachal Pradesh.

DI-1473

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH (DEPARTMENT OF MPP & POWER)

Advt. Date: 23.04.2021 (Closing Date: 22.05.2021)
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF
DIRECTOR (CIVIL), HPPCL**

The Department of MPP & Power, Government of Himachal Pradesh, invites applications by **22.05.2021** from interested and eligible Indian Nationals for appointment to one number post of **Director (Civil)** in the Pay Scale /Pay band of Rs. 37400-67000 + GP Rs. 10,000/- (initial pay of Rs.54700/-) per month in Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited, Shimla. The duration of the appointment to this post shall be five years or up to the age of 60 years whichever is earlier. As regard to other eligibility conditions, terms and conditions of appointment, age, duties and responsibilities and application format etc., the applicants may visit and download the same from official website of HPPCL i.e. www.hppcl.in. The Application Form duly super-scribed for the post may be sent to following address:

The Managing Director
Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited,
Himfud Building, BCS, New Shimla, Shimla-171009 (H.P.)

Inquiry Report into The Charges Against Sh. Manpreet Singh JE Electrical, Electricity Operation, Circle, U.T., Chandigarh

This is an inquiry into the charges against Sh. Manpreet Singh JE Electrical, Electricity Operation, Circle, U.T., Chandigarh. Briefly stating, above said Sh. Manpreet Singh is charged with commission of misconduct of remaining absent from duty from April 30, 2018 till date. To conduct inquiry into the charges, Chief Engineer-cum-Spl. Secy. (Engg.), Union Territory, Chandigarh appointed me inquiry Officer and Superintendent under Executive Engineer, OP Division No. 4 as Presenting Officer.

- Sh. Manpreet Singh charged official (C.O.) and Sh. Jasmer Singh, Superintendent cum presenting officer (P.O.) were summoned. In the wake of spread of Novel Corona Virus - 19, inquiry was conducted through audio/video conferencing. Sh. Manpreet Singh did not attend inquiry and was summoned through registered notice. Registered notice was received back with remark, “Unclaimed”. Sh. Manpreet Singh was found evading service of summons, he was then summoned for November 2, 2020 at 11 a.m. through publication of notice in two newspapers circulated in the area of his residence. Sh. Manpreet Singh JE failed to attend inquiry even after publication of notice in newspapers and was proceeded ex-parte. Inquiry was then fixed for evidence by presenting officer.
- Witness Sh Rohit Kumar Sekhri Executive Engineer stated that he had brought a written statement and requested that this might be considered as his statement recorded before the inquiry officer. In the statement, Sh Sekhri mentioned that Sh Manpreet Singh was on Ex India leave from 20.01.2018 to 04.02.2018 and he sent a request through email that his leave might be extended up to 01.03.2018 on account of his bad health as he was undergoing treatment from Bear Creek Medical Clinic Ltd. Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. Sh Sekhri further stated that Sh Manpreet Singh thereafter joined duty and then again applied for leave from 17.04.2018 to 27.04.2018. Sh Manpreet Singh then requested through email dated 04.05.2018 to extend his leave and he did not join the duty thereafter according to his knowledge.
- Another witness Sh Amit Kumar Assistant Engineer reiterated the same facts as stated by Sh Sekhri in his statement and added that Sh Manpreet Singh has been absenting from duty.
- Sh Jasmer Singh PO while tendering the attendance sheets closed his evidence stating that record and statements of witnesses are sufficient to prove the charges of absence of Sh Manpreet Singh from duty.
- I have perused the entire record placed on the file and also that or the original file. I have also taken into consideration statements of Sh witnesses. Sh Manpreet Singh was summoned through registered notice but the summons were returned unclaimed. It was observed that Sh Manpreet Singh was evading service of summons and it was not possible to summon him in ordinary way, therefore, notice was published in the paper asking him to appear before Inquiry Officer on 02.11.2020 at 11 a.m. in the office of Executive Engineer, Electricity, ‘OP’ Division No. 4, Sector 34 C, Chandigarh. However, Sh Manpreet Singh failed to appear on the said date and time even after publication of notice in newspapers. Under such circumstances, there was no option with me but to proceed ex parte.
- It is evident from the statements of both the witnesses that Sh Manpreet Singh did not join official duty after availing leave from 17.04.2018 to 27.04.2018 although about three years are going to pass. Perusal of record reveals that he was asked to join the duty and explain his absence but he did not bother to respond. Even the chargesheet was published in newspaper informing him that disciplinary action was being initiated against him but he neither filed reply nor reported for duty. After initiation of disciplinary inquiry he was asked to appear before the inquiry officer to put forth his defence but he did not appear. Even after publication of notice in newspaper asking him to join the inquiry, he did not bother.
- It is explicit from the attendance register that he has not been attending his official duty. Further there is no document on file to prove his presence at the place of his duty. Facts that he neither appeared before reporting officer nor even before inquiry officer prove that he is not interested in continuing with the duty and his absence from duty is wilful and intentional.
- In view of the position explained in foregoing paragraphs, it is amply clear that he has been wilfully absenting from duty and all the charges levelled against him are squarely proved.

Sd/- Inquiry Officer,
Nov. 26, 2020.

EU set for legal war against AstraZeneca over shortfall

BRUSSELS, APRIL 22

The European Commission, led by president Ursula von der Leyen, is working on legal proceedings against AstraZeneca after the drug-maker cut Covid vaccine deliveries to the European Union, sources familiar with the matter said.

The move would mark a further step in an EU plan to sever ties with the Anglo-Swedish company after it repeatedly cut supplies to the bloc, contributing to major delays in Europe’s vaccine rollout. An EU official involved in talks with drug-makers confirmed authorities in Brussels were preparing to sue the company.

The matter was discussed on Wednesday at a meeting with EU diplomats, where most EU states supported the legal action, two diplomats said. However its largest, Germany and France, asked for more time to think about the possible



A medic examines a Covid patient at a hospital in France. REUTERS

NOT AWARE OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S MOVE, SAYS VAX MAKER

■ A spokesman for AstraZeneca said the company was not aware of any legal proceedings “and continues to hold regular discussions on supply with the commission and member states”

■ The European Union’s move comes as AstraZeneca is said to have repeatedly cut supplies to the bloc, contributing to major delays in Europe’s vaccine rollout campaign.

move, the diplomats said.

A spokesman for AstraZeneca said the company was not aware of any legal proceedings “and continues to hold regular discussions on supply with the commis-

sion and member states”. Brussels in March sent a legal letter to the company in the first step of potential court proceedings. When the deadline for a reply expired this month, a spokesman for

the commission said the matter was discussed in a meeting with AstraZeneca but the EU was still seeking further clarification from the company on “a number of outstanding points”. — Reuters

| TRACKING VIRUS | |
|----------------|----------|
| NATIONS | DEATHS |
| US | 5,83,437 |
| BRAZIL | 3,81,687 |
| MEXICO | 2,13,597 |
| UK | 1,27,345 |
| ITALY | 1,18,357 |

WORLDOMETER
TILL APRIL 22, 10 PM

WWI martyrs: Britain apologises for racism

LONDON, APRIL 22

Entrenched prejudices, pre-conceptions and pervasive racism of contemporary imperial attitudes meant that nearly 50,000 Indian soldiers who died fighting for the British Empire during the World War I (WWI) were not commemorated the same way as other martyrs, finds a new review released on Thursday.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) found that an estimated 45,000-54,000 casualties, predominantly Indian, African, Egyptian and Somali person-

50K INDIANS HAD DIED

Nearly 50,000 Indians died fighting for the UK Empire during the World War I, but weren't commemorated the same way as other martyrs, finds report.

nel, were commemorated unequally. A further 1,16,000 casualties were not commemorated by name or possibly not commemorated at all.

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace made an apology on behalf of the government in the House of Commons. — PTI

Russia orders troops to return post Crimea drill

MOSCOW, APRIL 22

Russia’s Defence Minister on Thursday ordered troops back to their permanent bases following massive drills in Crimea that involved dozens of navy ships, hundreds of warplanes and thousands of troops in a show of force amid tensions with Ukraine.

After watching the drills, Russian Defense Minister Shoigu declared the maneuvers over. “I consider the goals of the snap check of readiness fulfilled,” Shoigu said. — Agencies

US Senate committee backs enhanced ties with India

WASHINGTON, APRIL 22

A powerful Senate committee has overwhelmingly approved the key China strategic competition Bill which among other things supports the Quad grouping and enhances security partnership with India.

Known as the “Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Quad grouping comprises the US, India, Australia and Japan.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, following a three hour debate and several amendments voted 21-1 to

Panel gives nod to China strategic competition Bill

approve the Strategic Competition Act on Wednesday. The US should reaffirm its commitment to the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with India and further deepen bilateral defence consultations and collaboration with the country, says the bipartisan Bill moved by Senators Jim

Risch and Bob Menendez, ranking member and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The two lawmakers described the legislation as an unprecedented, bipartisan effort to mobilise all American strategic, economic, and diplomatic tools for an Indo-Pacific strategy that enables the US government to compete effectively with China and the challenges it poses to its national and economic security for decades to come. — PTI

BUSINESS

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| USD \$ | EURO € | POUND £ | JPY ¥ | YUAN ¥ | CAD C\$ | AUD A\$ | SGD S\$ | HKD HK\$ |
| ₹74.94 | ₹90.32 | ₹104.08 | ₹0.69 | ₹11.56 | ₹59.99 | ₹58.01 | ₹56.44 | ₹9.67 |



| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| BSE | NSE | GOLD | SILVER |
| 374.87 48,080.67 | 109.75 14,406.15 | ₹46,250 Mumbai | ₹70,300 Mumbai |

S&P flags substantial impact of lockdowns on Indian economy

Forecasts 11% growth in current fiscal, says Covid a key risk

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said the Indian economy is projected to grow at 11% in the current fiscal, but flagged the “substantial” impact of broader lockdowns on the economy.

In its report on Asia-Pacific Financial Institutions, S&P said the control of Covid remains a key risk for the economy. New infections have spiked in recent weeks and the country is in the middle of a second pandemic wave.

“Our forecast growth of 11% for India in 2021 is followed by a 6.1-6.4% forecast increase for the next couple of years... Some targeted lockdowns have already been implemented and more will likely be needed. The impact of broader lock-



SURGE IN CASES MAY DELAY RECOVERY: FITCH

- Fitch Ratings on Thursday affirmed ‘BBB-’ sovereign rating for India, saying a recent surge in coronavirus cases may delay GDP recovery, but it won’t derail the economy
- It maintained a negative outlook for the rating reflecting “lingering uncertainty around the debt trajectory”
- It forecast a 12.8% recovery in GDP in the current fiscal

downs on the economy could be substantial, depending on their length and scope,” it said.

S&P, which currently has a ‘BBB-’ rating on India with a

stable outlook, has forecast an 11% growth in the Indian GDP for the fiscal beginning April 1 on account of a fast economic reopening and fiscal stimulus. As per official estimates,

the Indian economy contracted 8% in 2020-21 fiscal, which ended March 31, 2021.

Last week, another global rating agency Moody’s Investors Service had said the second wave of Covid infections presents a risk to India’s growth forecast, but double-digit GDP growth is likely in 2021 given the low level of activity last year.

Economies are recovering smartly, countries are rolling out vaccinations, and regional financing circumstances remain supportive. And yet, the pandemic has so seriously set back the finances of households and corporates, with deeply negative effects on lenders, S&P said. It expects banks may need years to fully recover. — PTI

Tata Steeltakes Liberty Steel to court in UK

LONDON, APRIL 22

Tata Steel has filed a commercial court claim in the UK against Sanjeev Gupta-led Liberty Steel, over alleged missed payments from an acquisition dating back to 2017.

Liberty Steel had stepped in to acquire Tata’s Speciality Steels business in Yorkshire, Lancashire and the West Midlands in an estimated £100 million deal, which Tata Steel announced as complete in May 2017. — PTI

Punjab to get ₹700 cr from Nabard

VIJAY C ROY

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 22

Rural infrastructure projects in Punjab are likely to get a shot in the arm as the state is likely to get Rs 700-crore assistance in the current fiscal under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) from Nabard. It will drive inclusive growth in rural and farm economy.

Dr Rajiv Siwach, CGM, Nabard, Punjab Regional Office, said, out of total assistance under RIDF last year, social sector comprising

“The disbursement under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to the state doubled to ₹600 crore last year. We hope it will touch ₹700 crore in the current fiscal”

Dr Rajiv Siwach, CGM, NABARD

schools, drinking water supply, sewerage and health got Rs 318 crore, followed by farm sector Rs 223 crore and rural connectivity Rs 59 crore.

Also, in order to address the issue of depleting groundwater in the state, Micro Irrigation Fund has been imple-

mented in the state with Rs 150 crore benefitting about 26,000 hectares. Further, a credit facility was provided to Milkfed for liquidity support during the Covid pandemic.

The CGM said the Nabard has provided financial support of Rs 12,108 crore to the state by registering a growth of 51% over the disbursements during the previous year.

He said the refinancing support of Rs 11,311 crore was provided to the state by registering a growth of 48% over the disbursements during the previous year.

Vanita scripts history, becomes US Associate Attorney General

WASHINGTON, APRIL 22

Prominent Indian-American civil rights lawyer Vanita Gupta has been confirmed by the US Senate as Associate Attorney General, making her the first person of colour to occupy the third highest position at the Department of Justice.

Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski broke away from her party colleagues to support Gupta (46), giving the Democrats 51 votes to see her through the confirmation on Wednesday. The Senate voted 51-49 to confirm her.

Vice President Kamala Harris was present in the Senate to cast her vote in case of a tie. The two parties have 50 members each in the 100-seat US Senate.

“Congratulations to Vanita Gupta on making history as the first woman of colour to serve as Associate Attorney General. Now, I urge the Senate to confirm Kristen Clarke. Both are eminently qualified, highly respected lawyers who



First Indian-American to occupy the office

are dedicated to advancing racial equity and justice,” President Joe Biden said.

Gupta is also the first civil rights lawyer to serve at one of the top three positions at the Department of Justice.

The daughter of Indian immigrants who was born and raised in the Philadelphia area, Gupta has had an illustrious career of fighting for civil rights.

At 28, she started her career at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund where she successfully overturned the wrongful drug convictions of 38 Black Americans in Texas. — PTI

Lenders to withdraw debt recast if Future, RIL deal goes through

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Lenders to Kishore Biyani’s Future Group will withdraw the just-approved debt recast plan that offered easier repayment options, if the troubled retailer’s Rs 24,713-crore asset sale to Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) goes through in a reasonable time frame, sources said.

Lenders of Future Retail last week agreed to extend repayment of loans by up to two years, while converting unpaid interest into a funded interest term loan. The penal charges too will be waived under the recast plan.

The recast plan has been approved by a RBI-constituted expert committee headed by KV Kamath.

Banking sources said the debt recast is actually ‘Plan B’ to help the nation’s largest retailer stay afloat. The recast will kick in only if the deal to sell Future’s retail, wholesales, warehousing and logistics assets to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) does not go through.

If the Reliance deal goes through, the recast plan will be withdrawn.

Lenders, they said, are still banking on ‘Plan A’ which is asset sale to RIL.

So far, the consortium of lenders has approved the debt restructuring of Future Retail Ltd (FRL), Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) and Future Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. The restructuring plans of



LOAN REJIG PLAN

■ Lenders of Future Retail last week agreed to extend repayment of loans by up to two years. The penal charges too will be waived under the recast plan

■ The recast plan has been approved by a RBI-constituted expert committee headed by KV Kamath

■ Banking sources said the debt recast is actually ‘Plan B’ to help the nation’s largest retailer stay afloat

FEL and FRL have received approval from the RBI-constituted expert panel, sources said.

The Rs 24,713-crore deal between RIL and Future Group was announced in August last year but it is getting delayed as e-Commerce major Amazon is contesting it at several forums, including arbitration at SIAC and before the Supreme Court, which on Monday stayed the ongoing proceedings before the Delhi High Court.

Citing delay, RRVL has also extended the timeline for the deal to be completed by six months to September 30, 2021. — PTI

Wrestling federation selects Amit Dhankar in the 74kg category for the Olympics qualifiers

VINAYAK PADMADEO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

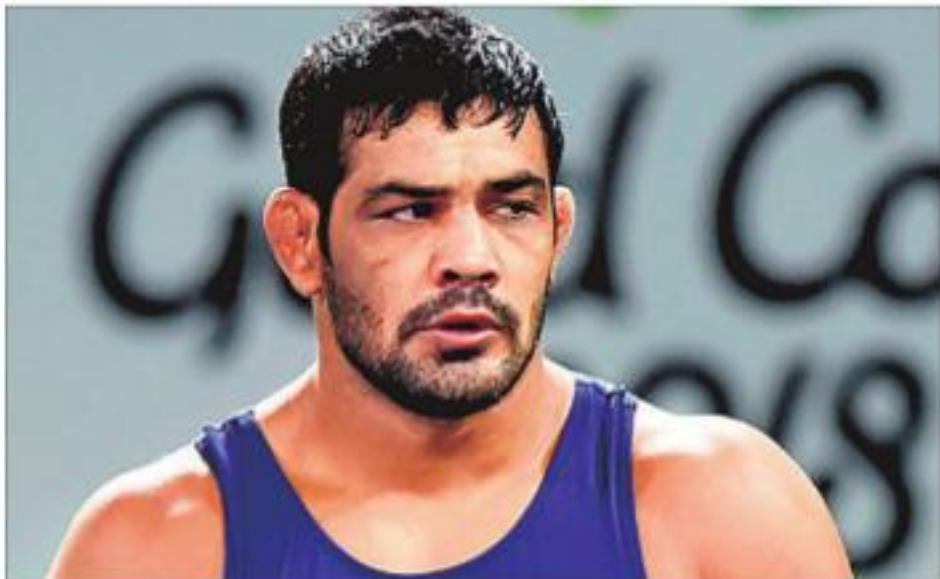
NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A simple communication from the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has virtually brought the curtain down on the Olympics journey of Sushil Kumar.

Though Sushil has not called time on his career, WFI has selected Amit Dhankar to represent India in the 74kg category at the World Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament, scheduled in Sofia on May 6-9. This has ended Sushil's chances of representing India at the Tokyo Olympics. This, in fact, virtually ends his hopes of ever going back to the Olympics — in which he won medals in 2008 and 2012 — because by the time the next Olympics are held in Paris in 2024, he would be 41 years old.

Interestingly, the team for the Sofia tournament was selected without a trial as there was no time to organise it. Also, WFI did not

Sushil's Tokyo dreams over



“I want to wish Amit for his selection. I am happy for him as both of us are trainees of Mahabali Satpalji. As for my chances are concerned I was not in the running as I am not fit at all. Everyone knows I will only fight if I am fit. Please do not say my career is over. We will have time to decide about it later. What happens to my career after today's selection is not important” Sushil Kumar

want to hold a trial amidst the surge in Covid-19 cases in the country.

74kg category

As the team for Sofia was

named, the big talking point was the 74kg weight division where the selection committee dropped the national champion Sandeep Mann for failing to grab his



Amit Dhankar replaced Sandeep Mann in the squad. FILE

chances. Mann took part in the recent Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Almaty, Kazakhstan, where he lost in the semifinals. At the Asian Championships, Mann had lost in the quarterfinals.

Sushil won his two Olympics medals and the 2010 World Championships gold in the 66kg category, but later moved up to the 74kg class.

WFI decided to send Dhankar for the Sofia meet, which would be the last

Men's squad

Freestyle: Amit Dhankar (74kg), Satyawart Kadian (97kg) and Sumit (125kg)
Greco-Roman: Sachin Rana (60kg), Aashu (67kg), Gurpreet Singh (77kg), Sunil (87kg), Deepanshu (97kg), Naveen Kumar (130kg)

Women's squad

Seema (50kg), Nisha (68kg), Pooja (76kg)

chance for wrestlers to qualify for the Tokyo Games. “Sandeep Mann, selected for Asian Qualifier and Asian Championship, did not give satisfactory performance. Hence, the Committee decided to give a chance to Amit Dhankar who secured 2nd position in the Selection Trial held on 16th March 2021,” WFI said in a statement.

Best wishes to Amit: Sushil

“I want to wish Amit the best for his selection. I am

happy for him as both of us are trainees of Mahabali Satpalji,” Sushil told *The Tribune* today. “As for my chances, I was not in the running as I am not fit at all. Everyone knows I will fight only if I am fit.”

Sushil, who has represented India in three Olympics and won medals in 2008 Beijing (bronze) and 2012 London (silver), did not accept the suggestion that the development has ended his career. Satyawart Kadian (97kg) and Sumit (125kg) are the other two wrestlers named in the freestyle team for Sofia.

In the Greco-Roman discipline, WFI has similarly changed two names, selecting Sachin Rana (60kg) Deepanshu (97kg), who had secured the second position in trials.

WFI said the wrestlers originally selected in these weight categories — Gyanendra and Ravi — had given “poor performances” in the Asian Qualifier and Asian Championship.

BRIEFLY

GRAN CANARIA (SPAIN)

Ajeetesh shoots 4-under, tied-16th

India's Ajeetesh Sandhu finished strongly with three birdies in the last six holes for a 4-under 66 that placed him tied-16th even as half the field was yet to finish the first round at the Gran Canaria Lopesan Open here. Of the other three Indians in the fray, only SSP Chawrasia had finished but had a disappointing day at 4-over 74. Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar were yet to finish.

LOS ANGELES

Aditi drops down to T-43 with late bogeys

India's Aditi Ashok got off to a modest start at the HUGEL-Air Premia LA Open here with a 1-under 70 and was placed tied-43rd. Aditi looked set for a much better score but two late bogeys spoilt a card that was 3-under through 14 holes.

PALLEKELE

Bangladesh reach 474/4 on Day 2 after Mominul century

Captain Mominul Haque completed a century beside newcomer Najmul Shanto as their 242-run partnership lifted Bangladesh to a commanding 474/4 against Sri Lanka after two days of the first Test today. Shanto, who started the day at 126, was out for 163 soon after lunch to end their third-wicket stand. Mominul reached his 11th Test century in the morning session and was out, too, before tea.

BARCELONA

Nadal in quarterfinals of Barcelona Open

Rafael Nadal needed three sets to beat Kei Nishikori as he reached the quarterfinals at the Barcelona Open. Nadal beat the Japanese 6-0 2-6 6-2 at the clay-court tournament.

MADRID

Benzema scores twice as Madrid beat Cadiz

Karim Benzema scored two goals and set up another to lead Real Madrid to a 3-0 win over Cadiz in the Spanish league. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

IPL

PUNJAB VS MUMBAI
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

EPL

ARSENAL VS EVERTON
STAR SPORTS
00:30AM (SATURDAY)

7 women boxers, including Haryana's Gitika, Poonam and Vinka, clinch gold

YOUTH BOXING WORLD C'SHIPS

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Indian women pugilists put up sensational performances at boxing's Youth World Championship, winning all seven finals they'd reached at Kielce, Poland, today.

All the women from India in action in the finals today — Gitika (48kg) Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg), Poonam (57kg), Vinka (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), T Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) — registered victories. This is the best performance by Indian women in the event, bettering the five gold won at the 2017 edition of the tournament in Guwahati.

The Indian women's team finished No. 1 in the championship, ahead of Russia.

Perfect start

Providing the country the perfect start for the day, Haryana boxer Gitika, who came into the final after beating two-time European champion Italy's Erika Priscindaro, defeated local favourite Natalia Kuczweska of Poland 5-0 in the women's 48kg category to secure India's first gold

Gold rush



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Poonam, Vinka and Gitika won gold with dominating wins.

medal of the event. Chanu was equally good during her final in the women's 51kg category. The Asian youth champion from Manipur was in great touch as she secured a gold with a comfortable 5-0 win against European junior champion Russia's Valeriia Linkova.

In the women's 57kg final, Poonam started aggressively from the word go and dominated her experienced oppo-

nent Sthelyne Grosy of France with precise punches. Poonam, who is also from Haryana, notched up a 5-0 triumph to bag gold, continuing her unbeaten run at the international level.

Haryana girl Vinka (60kg) produced a spectacular show as her punches, packed with a lot of power, were too strong for Kazakhstan boxer Zhuldyz Shayakhmetova and the ref-



eree had to stop the contest. Rajasthan boxer Arundhati added to the gold rush with a fine 5-0 win against Polish boxer Barbara Marcinkowska in the 69kg final. Asian youth champion Sanamacha, who trains at Mary Kom's academy in Imphal, added the sixth gold when she outperformed Kazakhstan's Dana Diday 5-0 in the 75kg final.

Young boxing sensation

Alfiya then clinched the seventh gold for the country by hammering European youth champion Daria Kozorez of Moldova 5-0.

“This has been an amazing effort from our youth boxers, especially when the players had to be confined at home for most part of the last year and only make do with online training sessions,” Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh said. — TNS

PERFECT 10



Devdutt Padikkal celebrates after scoring a hundred as Virat Kohli looks on during their match in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

Brief Scores

Rajasthan Royals: 177/9 (Dube 46, Tewatia 40; Siraj 3/27, Harshal 3/47); **Royal Challengers Bangalore: 181/0** in 16.3 overs (Padikkal 101*, Kohli 72*)

Padikkal's ton eclipses Kohli, RCB win by 10 wkts

MUMBAI, APRIL 22

Devdutt Padikkal, who not long ago was suffering from Covid-19, struck a stunning 101 not out off 52 balls, in the process eclipsing India captain Virat Kohli, to power Royal Challengers Bangalore to a 10-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the 16th match of IPL-14. Set 178 to win, RCB completed the job in only 16.3 overs, without losing a wicket, to make it four wins out of four matches played. They are firmly on top of the points table with eight points.

Padikkal's 101, the 14th hundred by an RCB player in the IPL — the most for any franchise — came off only 52 balls and included 11 fours and 6 sixers. It put into shade Kohli's 72 off 47 balls, six of which were hit for fours and three for sixers.

None of the RR bowlers could make an impact today, with the most economical of

them — Chetan Sakariya — going for 8.75 runs an over.

RCB's Glenn Maxwell had praise for Padikkal for his knock: “I've not done any work with him (Padikkal). He's got a beautiful flow of the bat. Obviously he had Covid at the start of the year, felt a bit flat, but he cashed in.”

Tewatia's fightback

Earlier, Rahul Tewatia's impressive death overs hitting ensured a fighting 177/9 for RR after yet another familiar top-order no-show.

On a good batting surface, RR managed a total which was 25 runs short of par, but credit for the decent score goes to a counter-attacking effort from all-rounder Shivam Dube (46 off 32 balls) which stemmed the rot, and big hits from Tewatia (40 off 23 balls).

Dube smashed two sixes and five fours and with Riyan

Parag (25 off 15 balls) giving him good support, added 66 runs for the fifth wicket off only 6.2 overs to give the total a semblance of respectability.

The profligate top-order of RR once again flattered to deceive along with their skipper Sanju Samson, who has been quite inconsistent.

For RCB, Mohammed Siraj's (3/27 in 4 overs) off-cutter first-up cleaned up Jos Buttler (8), and Manan Vohra (7), with another atrocious shot selection off Kyle Jamieson (1/28 in 4 overs), might have ensured a lengthy spell for himself in the dug-out.

Siraj then unleashed a perfect toe-crusher for David Miller (0) as Kohli made a perfect call for DRS. Samson (21 off 18 balls) maintained his near decade-long IPL tradition of fizzling out after one or two good knocks as a six off Washington Sundar was followed by an indiscreet chip at mid-wicket. — TNS, agencies

Indian athletes' Turkey training trip suspended

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The training-cum-competition tour of elite track and field athletes to Turkey has been “suspended” as they would have to serve hard quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in that country.

Olympics-bound javelin throwers Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh were to be among the group to travel to Turkey this month, along with the quartermilers — both men and women.

“Our athletes will have to undergo a 14-day hard quarantine if they have to go to Turkey. This would mean

that they will not even be allowed to go out of their rooms, they will not be able to train,” a reliable team source told PTI.

“This is competition period and athletes cannot be rested that long during this phase. They have to train, so there is no point resting for 14 days and spending a lot of money. So, the tour is suspended as of now,” he added.

The source said the Athletics Federation of India is planning to change the destination of the training-cum-competition tour to Czech Republic. — PTI

Panghal in semis of boxing tourney in Russia

NEW DELHI: Olympics-bound Amit Panghal (52kg) was assured of at least a bronze at the Governor's Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia, after he advanced to the semifinals. However, five other Indian boxers bowed out following opening-round losses. Panghal prevailed 5-0 against local favourite Amir Galanov. However, Sumit Sangwan (81kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg), Naman Tanwar (91kg), Olympics-bound Ashish Kumar (75kg) and Vinod Tanwar (49kg) made early exits. PTI

HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Haryana Undertaking)
Bays No 59-62, Sector 2, Panchkula
Phone: 01722567945

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)
Tender Enquiry No.: 164/Tend/COR/2020-21/3/4-A

Online Short Term Tender for the Rate Contract for supply of Urgent Medicines to Various Hospitals of Government of Haryana for a Period of Six Months For “Group A” Medicine and documents can be downloaded from **21.04.2021** onwards on e-procurement portal www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/2222/11/41/2022/2685/31/4

For Managing Director
HMSCL, Panchkula

PUBLIC NOTICE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF RETAIL ZONES OF COUNTRY LIQUOR (L-14A) AND IMFL (L-2) VENDS IN HARYANA FOR THE YEAR 2021-22.

It is hereby notified for the information of existing retail licensees of 2020-21 that the applications for renewal of zones of Country Liquor (L-14A) and IMFL (L-2) vendes in Haryana are invited for the policy year 2021-22.

1. The existing licensees of retail zones of Country Liquor (L-14A) and IMFL (L-2) vendes of year 2020-21 have an option to get their licenses renewed for a period of one year (**20.05.2021 to 19.05.2022**). The renewal shall be granted as per terms and conditions of the Excise Policy for the year 2021-22.

2. The license fee for zones opted for renewal shall be 10% over and above the “Base License Fee” of such zones for the year 2020-21. The information regarding “Base License Fee” of a zone may be obtained from the respective DETC (Excise). Further, the “Base License Fee” for a zone shall be calculated as under:-

“**BASE LICENSE FEE:-** For the purpose of determining license fee of a zone for the year 2021-22, the base license fee shall be the license fee of the retail zone of CL (L-14A) and IM FL (L-2) vendes for the year 2020-21.

Provided that in cases where relaxation in license fee on account of lockdown or any other reason was given during the year 2020-21, for the purpose of renewal, the base license fee for the year 2020-21 shall be considered as if no such relaxation was given.

Provided further that in case the zones of vendes were allotted during the currency of year 2020-21, the base license fee shall be calculated after enhancing the same pro-rata for the complete year.

ILLUSTRATION:-

In case a zone of vendes was allotted on **20th August, 2020**. Its reserve price was **Rs. 1 Crore** but after reduction it was allotted for **Rs. 55 Lakh**. Its base license fee for the year **2020-21** will be considered as under:-
{**Rs. 5500000 x Total Number of days in a year (365 days)**}

Number of days for which license was allotted
(from 20th August, 2020 to 19th May, 2021)

Provided also that in case a zone of vendes was re-allotted at the risk and cost of the original licensee, the original license fee for which that zone was originally allotted shall be considered as base license fee for the year 2020-21.”

3. For renewal of his zones, the licensee shall be required to submit the renewal application form, in the office of concerned DETC (Excise) along with non-refundable and non-adjustable renewal fee of **Rs. 50,000/-** per zone. The applicants, along with renewal application form, shall also deposit 5% of the license fee (of year 2021-22) as security. The applicant licensee is also required to file an affidavit, with the renewal application form, that he is not a defaulter and has paid all past dues of excise revenue in Haryana. The failure to furnish the affidavit/certificate prescribed herein or furnishing false affidavit shall be a sufficient ground for cancellation of license; which shall be re-allotted at his cost and risk. The renewal application form which is complete in all respect, accompanied by affidavit and required renewal fee and 5% security amount must be submitted in the office of DETC (Excise) concerned from **23rd April, 2021** onwards up to **5:00 PM on 28th April, 2021**.

4. The payment of renewal fee of **Rs. 50,000/-** per zone and 5% security amount shall be made by the applicant licensee, along with his/her renewal application, in the form of Bank Draft only. The Demand Draft shall be payable in favour of Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Excise) concerned. Incomplete application shall be liable for rejection.

5. If any licensee has interest in more than one zone and he/she requests for renewal of only selected/few zones out of those which he/she had in the excise year 2020-21, the ETC (FC) at his sole discretion, in the interest of excise revenue without assigning any reason whatsoever, may reject the request.

6. In case, the total revenue from enhanced license fee (i.e. 10% increase over base license fee of 2020-21) in the applications received in the State from licensees for renewal of retail zones of CL (L-14A) and IM FL (L-2) vendes is equal to or more than 85% of such proposed license fee revenue from all 1163 zones for the year 2021-22, the renewal requests shall be confirmed/approved by the ETC (FC).

Provided that in case, total revenue from enhanced license fee (i.e. 10% increase over base license fee of 2020-21) in the applications received in the State from licensees for renewal of retail zones of CL (L-14A) and IM FL (L-2) vendes is less than 85% of such proposed license fee revenue from all 1163 zones for the year 2021-22, the renewal requests shall be subject to confirmation/approval by the ETC (FC), who may for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the entire or partial renewal applications. The period of confirmation/approval shall be not more than **7 days** from the last date of receipt of such applications/requests. In such cases, where the renewal applications are rejected entirely or partially, the 5% security amount shall be refunded.

7. The schedule of payment of security and installments of license fee shall be as per provisions of the Excise Policy for the year 2021-22. Further, the applicant licensee shall be liable to pay duties/fee/levies as prescribed in the policy.

8. A list of all licensees who have applied for renewal of L -2/L-14A licenses shall be displayed at a conspicuous place in the office of the district concerned.

9. All provisions of Haryana Excise Act, 1914 and Rules/orders framed thereunder and amendments to be incorporated therein accordance with the provisions of Excise Policy 2021-22 shall be applicable.

10. The Excise Policy for the year 2021-22 is available at the department website www.haryanatax.gov.in.

11. Any clarification regarding the above may be obtained from the DETC (Excise) of the concerned district.

All renewals/allotments shall be subject to approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana. He may reject, without assigning any reason, any renewal/allotment in public interest, as the case may be, within **10 days** of allotment.

Dated: 22.04.2021

Excise & Taxation Commissioner,
Haryana.

PRDH/1037/11/20/2022/2685/31/4

Must keep cool like Dhoni at Olympics, says sailor Saravanan



Nethra Kumaran.
PHOTO: NETHRA/INSTAGRAM

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Nethra Kumaran and Vishnu Saravanan, who would be among four Indian sailors representing India at the Tokyo Olympic Games, today said that for them, the event would hold no pressure or fear as they would take part in it with-

out much expectations.

Four Indian sailors — Saravanan (Laser Standard category), Kumaran (Laser Radial) and Vishnu Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar (49er Skiff) — qualified for the Olympics during the Asian Qualifiers in Oman earlier this month. This is

the first time that India will compete in three sailing events in one Olympics. “We will go to the Games without a lot of expectation. We will see where we stand against the world level. This will be a great learning process for us,” Kumaran said.

Saravanan said competing

in Tokyo, they must remain cool — like former India cricket captain MS Dhoni. “I will be happy to finish in the top 50 per cent. There's no pressure because we know we're not there yet. We are young and have room to learn more. The whole nation has so much hope on

us but we have to be cool-minded like MS Dhoni and do our job,” he said.

The Indian sailors had a training camp, funded to the tune of Rs 1.29 crore by the Sports Ministry, in Oman for 15 days before the Olympics qualifying event. — TNS, agencies

PM Modi calls for concrete action on climate change

With Biden, announces India-US partnership on climate & clean energy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called on world leaders to take “concrete action at high speed” to combat the impending disaster of climate change.

Pointing out that humanity’s ongoing battle against Covid is a timely reminder that the grave threat of climate change has not disappeared, PM Modi said, “The world needs to take large-scale action with global scope in order to avert another human catastrophe.”

The PM was the second national leader invited by Biden to speak on the opening day of the two-day virtual climate summit after Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Biden had delivered the inaugural address which was then addressed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, UK Prime Minister Boris



LAYS STRESS ON LIFESTYLE CHANGE

“I want to emphasise the importance of lifestyle change. The guiding philosophy of back to basics must be an important pillar of strategy in the post-Covid era

Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

Johnson was the next leader to speak after PM Modi.

The PM along with Biden also announced the joint launch of the India-US climate and clean energy agenda partnership. The issue was discussed between PM Modi and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry

here earlier this month.

“Officials of the two countries will pursue ways in which they can deepen their partnership on climate and clean energy in this critical decade,” read a State Department read-out of Kerry’s India visit.

Pointing out that India has encouraged several global ini-

tatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilience, PM Modi said the world needed to “go back to basics” in order to save the environment.

India’s per capita carbon footprint is 60 per cent lower than the global average because the lifestyle of its people is still rooted in sustainable traditional practices. “I want to emphasise the importance of lifestyle change. The guiding philosophy of back-to-basics must be an important pillar of strategy for the post-Covid era,” he observed.

Earlier, Biden outlined an aggressive target which, he said, “will set America on a path of a net-zero emissions economy by no later than 2050”. The White House’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent is nearly double the target set by the Obama administration in 2015.



A Covid patient outside LNJP Hospital in New Delhi on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI

Covid national emergency: SC Agrees to take up Vedanta’s plea to reopen plant

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Terming the Covid-19 pandemic as “almost a national emergency”, the Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear on Friday Vedanta’s plea for reopening of its Sterile copper plant at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu after the company said it would produce 1,000 tonnes of oxygen and give it free of cost to treat Covid-19 patients.

The plant has remained closed since 2018 over alleged violation of environmental norms and the company said it would open it for the purpose of producing and supplying medical oxygen to Covid-19 patients.

On behalf of Vedanta, senior counsel Harish Salve told a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde that the plant

Firm says will produce 1,000 tonnes of oxygen and give it free of cost to treat patients

CSR FUNDS FOR MAKESHIFT HOSPITALS

New Delhi: The government on Thursday sought to channelise corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the setting up of makeshift hospitals and temporary Covid-care facilities by categorising them as eligible items for spending under the head.

SUSPEND BREATH ANALYSER TEST: PILOTS

New Delhi: The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has petitioned the civil aviation regulator DGCA urging it to temporarily suspend breath analyser (BA) test for airlines personnel with immediate effect to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

could produce 1,000 tonnes of oxygen there every day and the company was ready to supply all 1,000 tonnes free of cost. The TN Government opposed the reopening of Sterile copper plant at Tuticorin, saying it was earlier rejected by the top court. “We understand all this. We will

ensure compliance of all environmental norms by the plant and its oxygen producing facility would be allowed to operate. We are on the oxygen plant,” the Bench said when senior advocate CS Vaidyanathan objected to the company’s submission on behalf of the TN Government.

Indian Navy joins Indonesia’s hunt for missing submarine

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The Indian Navy dispatched its Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) on Thursday to assist the Indonesian Navy in search and rescue efforts for their Submarine KRI Nanggala, which was reported missing on Wednesday.

The Indonesian submarine was reportedly exercising in a location 25 miles north of Bali with a crew of 53 personnel. The DSRV is special vessel that undertakes such task. Indian Navy Spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhw-



The Indian Navy's Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel on way to assist the Indonesian Navy in locating its missing submarine. PTI

al said in New Delhi that the DSRV has been dispatched from its base at Visakhapatnam, located on the east coast of the country.

The DSRV system can locate a submarine up to 1000 m in depth utilising its state-of-the-art side scan sonar and remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

Composer Shravan loses Covid battle

MUMBAI, APRIL 22

Composer Shravan Rathod of popular music director duo Nadeem-Shravan passed away on Thursday due to Covid-19 related complications, his son said. Rathod was 66.

The composer was admitted to SL Raheja hospital in a “critical” condition after testing positive. He breathed his last in the hospital. “He passed away around 10.15 pm. Please pray for his soul,” his son Sanjeev Rathod said. Nadeem-Shravan were among the most popular music composers in the 90s, giving chartbuster soundtracks in films like “Aashiqui” (1990), “Saajan” (1991), Shah Rukh Khan starrer “Pardes” and “Raja Hindustani”. — PTI

Violence mars sixth phase of Bengal polls

KOLKATA, APRIL 22

Nearly 80 per cent voter turnout marked the sixth phase of polling on Thursday in the West Bengal Assembly election, which was marred by sporadic incidents of violence, firing by state police and an assault on a candidate.

According to the EC, 79.09 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 5 pm in 43 seats where polling was held and is expected to go up further as

EC BANS ROADSHOWS, VEHICLE RALLIES IN WB

Noting that Covid safety norms were being flouted in Bengal during campaigning, the Election Commission on Thursday banned roadshows and vehicle rallies in the state with immediate effect and said no public meeting having more than 500 persons would be allowed. **ms**

the polling ended at 6.30 pm. Elections were held in 43

seats — 17 in North 24 Parganas district, nine each in Nadia — including Matua strongholds at Bongaon and Krishnanagar and Uttar Dinajpur and eight in Purba Bardhaman. Matuas make for a large chunk of the state’s scheduled caste population. — PTI

Elders show their inked fingers after casting their votes at a polling station. **PTI**



OBITUARY

Farid Sabri (1962-2021)

A gem in galaxy of qawwali

NONIKA SINGH



ion with the Almighty.

As Farid said in an interview, “Qawwal means one who sings Sufiyana Kalaam.” The singer, who sang for a number of films like *Pardes* (1997) and *Yeh Dil Aashiqana* (2002), believed that the way qawwali was pictured in cinema might lend it a new colour and form yet nothing could take away its spiritual essence.

Hailing from a family singers going back many generations, he believed as much in staying true to one’s roots as keeping the audience taste in mind.

Privacy policy: Delhi HC rejects FB, WhatsApp pleas against CCI order

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The Delhi High Court on Thursday dismissed petitions filed by Facebook and WhatsApp against an order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a probe into WhatsApp’s new privacy policy.

Though it would have been “prudent” for the CCI to await the outcome of petitions in the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court against WhatsApp’s new privacy policy, but not doing so would not make the regulator’s order “perverse” or “wanting of jurisdiction”, Justice Navin Chawla said.

WhatsApp and Facebook had challenged the CCI’s March 24 order directing a probe into the new privacy policy, contending that when the top court and the Delhi High Court were looking into the privacy policy, then CCI ought not to have “jumped the gun” and intervened in the issue. The CCI’s decision was an abuse of the commission’s suo motu jurisdiction, they had submitted. — TNS

| GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sl. 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. |
| 1 | HSPV, PANCHKULA | CONSTRUCTION OF INDOOR BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL STADIUM AND OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO IN TAU DEVITAL SPORTS COMPLEX, SECTOR 3, PANCHKULA. (DEPOSIT WORK) INCLUDING MTC & DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD OF 3 YEARS FREE OF COST) EXCEPT FOR MULTIPURPOSE SYNTHETIC FLOORING FOR WHICH THE FREE OF COST MITC AND DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE SHALL BE 5 YEARS TIL 3 MONTHS | CLOSING DATE 03.05.2021 | 2175 LACS | www.hspv.org.in |
| 2 | HAFFED | E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF DAMAGED WHEAT OF CROP YEAR 2019-20 AT HAFED, BHUNA, FATEHABAD & HAFED COMPLEX NARNAUL | 22.04.2021 07.05.2021 | AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS | www.hafed.gov.in |
| 3 | HAFFED | PUBLICATION OF SHORT TERM 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 STORAGE | 21.04.2021 26.04.2021 | AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS | www.hafed.gov.in |

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| 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 |
| 1. | HVPNL | PROCUREMENT OF “EARTHING STICK/ DISCHARGE ROD” (MIT NO.: 1164 DATED: 15.03.2021) | 16.03.2021 05.05.2021 | EMD 11.84 LACS | www.hvpn.org.in |
| 2. | THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, A UNIT OF HDDCF LTD. | SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC POUCH FILLING MACHINE, MAKE SAMARPAN, MODEL-PRISM 10K | 16.04.2021 25.04.2021 | 15000/- | www.vitaindia.org.in |
| 3. | HSAMB FARIDABAD | CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM VILLAGE PEHRUKA PWD ROAD TO THANTRI PANTOON BRIDGE (ID - 9158), PALWAL CONSTITUENCY, DISTT. PALWAL. + 12 OTHER WORK | CLOSING DATE 10.05.2021 | 1.56 CRORE | http://etenders.hry.nic.in |
| 4. | MC, PANCHKULA | CONSTRUCTION OF REHRI MARKET IN SECTOR 19, PANCHKULA, (PROVIDING AND FIXING OF BARBED WIRE WITH ANGLE ON BOUNDARY WALL OF REHRI MARKET) + 18 | CLOSING DATE 05.05.2021 | 183.80 LACS | http://etenders.hry.nic.in |
| 5. | MC SONIPAT | 1. ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN GYM IN VARIOU + 7 WORKS | CLOSING DATE 07.05.2021 | 1.54 CRORE | https://etenders.hry.nic.in |
| 6. | HPGCL | EXTENSION OF FIREFIGHTING LINE FROM MISC. PUMP HOUSE UNIT-5 TOWARD COOLING TOWER OF UNIT-5 & SWITCHYARD AREA IN PTPS PANIPAT. | 16.04.2021 17.05.2021 | 12 LACS | www.hpgcl.org.in |
| 7. | HVPNL | CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSION OF CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AND ALLIED WORK AT 66 KV S/STN SAHA (NIT NO. 10/CCL-373 DATED: 20.04.2021) | 20.04.2021 05.05.2021 | 62660/- FOR GENERAL 31330/- FOR SOCIETY | www.hvpn.org.in |
| 8. | HVPNL | REPAIR OF CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, BIANA | 20.04.2021 28.04.2021 | 1.73 LACS | www.hvpn.org.in |
| 9. | DHBVN | SUPPLY ERECTION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 11 KV ELECTRIC LINES ON TURNKEY BASIS BY EXECUTING THE WORK OF BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OR AUGMENTATION OF 11 KV FEEDERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DHBVN IN 3 DIFFERENT PACKAGES AGAINST TED- 351/PD&C/2021 | 22.04.2021 17.05.2021 | 22.62 CRORE | www.dhbvn.org.in |
| 10. | MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, INDRI | BIO-REMEDIATION AND BIO-MINING OF THE LEGACY WASTE ON DUMPING SITE OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE INDRI | CLOSING DATE 27.04.2021 | 60000/- | etenders.hry.nic.in |
| 11. | UHBVN | HIRING OF VEHICLE (SWIFT DESIRE OR ANY OTHER SEDAN CAR) FOR SE (OF) CIRCLE, UHBVN ROHTAK | CLOSING DATE 30.04.2021 | 6000/- | www.uhbvn.org.in |
| 12. | HVPNL | AUGMENTATION 1 NO. 16/20 MVA 66/11KV T/F TO 25/31.5 MVA 66/11KV T/F AT 66KV S/STN. SEC.-8, IMT MANESAR (NIT NO.01/CWG/2021-22 DATED 19.04.2021) | 19.04.2021 04.05.2021 | 2.76 LACS | www.hvpn.org.in |
| 13. | HVPNL | WORK FOR REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF POLICE STATION, IRRIGATION & POWER DEPARTMENT BUILDING AT 132 KV SUB STATION HVPNL, JIND (OLD) UNDER XEN T/S DIVISION, HVPNL, JIND (NIT-04/TSJ/2021-22) | 21.04.2021 03.05.2021 | 4.38 LACS | www.hvpn.org.in |

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

Yechury’s son, ex-Delhi minister Walia die of Covid

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

CPM chief Sitaram Yechury’s son Asish Yechury (34) died of Covid this morning.

“It is with great sadness that I have to inform that I lost my elder son, Ashish Yechury to Covid-19 this morning. I want to thank all those who gave us hope and who treated him—doctors, nurses, frontline health workers, sanitation workers and innumerable others who stood by us,” Yechury tweeted.

Ashish passed away at 5.30 am at Medanta Hospital, Gurugram. He was infected with the virus about two weeks ago. He is survived by his wife, Swati. “Condolences to Shri Sitaram Yechury ji and his family on the tragic and untimely demise of his son, Ashish. Om Shanti,” Prime Minister Modi said on Twitter.

Senior Congress leader and former Delhi government minister AK Walia also died of Covid-19 in the early hours of Thursday, party leaders said. He was 72. — TNS

Over 300 flee Silchar airport to avoid testing

Silchar (Assam): Over 300 passengers, who landed at the Silchar airport on Wednesday, created disorder and fled the facility to escape mandatory Covid-19 testing, officials said on Thursday, and asserted criminal action would be initiated against them. — PTI

Veterans can’t be turned away, military stations told



Almost 100% forces have had first shot of vaccine

an Air Force and the Indian Navy have achieved 100 per cent coverage for the first shot while the second shot coverage is 90 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army, which had been questioned by veterans over Covid-related facilities, has sent out a message to all retired personnel to keep in touch with ex-servicemen (ESM) cells in their areas.

There is set of emergency numbers circulated and all military stations across the country have been told not to turn away any veteran.

All ESM units have been told to ensure that information about Covid-care facilities in each district is known to the veterans and they do not lose time looking for information of the closest such facility.

All guidelines and advisories are being made in local language for further transmission to veterans.

The message from the Army headquarters is that whatever be the situation, the Indian Army will continue to look after its veterans and all veterans should be reassured that they can approach the Army for any kind of assistance.