

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL 140 NO. 306 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

UK ADMITS CBI EVIDENCE
IN NIRAV CASE WORLD

NO HIKE IN SERVICE CHARGES BY PSU
BANKS, SAYS FINMIN BUSINESS

WILLING TO OPERATE MORE
FLIGHTS: PURI BACK PAGE

/THETRIBUNECHD /THETRIBUNECHD WWW.TRIBUNEINDIA.COM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

US votes after divisive, bitter campaign; record turnout

100 mn electors cast vote in early polling | Mail-in ballots may delay results

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 3
Americans were voting in large numbers on Tuesday in one of the most divisive presidential elections in decades in which incumbent Republican Donald Trump is challenged by Democrat Joe Biden.

Amidst a resurgent Covid-19 pandemic, nearly 100 million people have already cast their ballots in early voting, putting the country on course for its highest turnout in a century. Poll experts said that the turnout is going to be the key in the election results. The mail-in ballots could take days or weeks to be counted in some states, meaning a winner might not be declared in the hours after polls close on Tuesday.

There is an estimated four million Indian-American population of which about 2.5 million are potential voters in the November 2020 presidential elections. Over 1.3 million Indian-Americans are voters in key battleground states, including Texas, Michigan, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Large lines were seen and hundreds of people had queued up before polling stations, particularly in the key battleground states like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Trump in the wee hours of Tuesday urged Americans to vote for him. 'Vote like your freedom, your livelihood, and our future depends on

270 US POLL'S MAGIC NUMBER

538 total number of electors who will vote for the President and the Vice President

Each state is allotted a different number of electoral votes, based on how many representatives it has in the House, plus its two senators

At 55, California has the most electoral votes

239 MILLION ELIGIBLE TO VOTE THIS YEAR

FLORIDA, PENNSYLVANIA CRUCIAL FOR TRUMP

Has several paths to 270, but his best route hinges on winning Florida and Pennsylvania

If he wins both states and holds onto North Carolina, Arizona, Georgia and Ohio, he will win

With 29 electoral votes, Florida is arguably the most crucial state for Trump



A voter inserts her ballot into a drop box in Salt Lake City. AP/PTI

2.5 MILLION INDIAN-AMERICAN VOTERS

WHAT JOE BIDEN NEEDS FOR WIN

Democrat Joe Biden's campaign is laser-focused on Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania

He's making a big play for Arizona, a state that hasn't backed a Democratic presidential candidate since 1996

Biden also is redoubling his focus on Florida, the biggest prize among the perennial battlegrounds

SWING STATES HOLD KEY

Texas (electoral votes 38), Florida (29), Pennsylvania (20), Ohio (18), Georgia (16), Michigan (16), North Carolina (15), Arizona (11) and Wisconsin (10)

NEW PREZ BY MID-JAN

Dec 8: States have until this date to resolve any disputes over the vote count

Dec 14: Electoral College members cast ballots for Pres, VP

Jan 6, 2021: Congress meets to count the electoral votes and declare the winners

Jan 20: Inauguration Day — The winner and his running mate are sworn in

it... Because they do!" tweeted Trump, who is seeking to avoid becoming the first incumbent President to lose a re-election since George HW Bush in 1992.

Biden also tweeted urging people to vote: "It's election

day. Go vote, America!" National polls continue to show Biden leading Trump, by a comfortable 8 percentage points. US elections, however, are not determined by the national popular vote, but rather in the 538-member

Electoral College, with each candidate needing a majority of 270 to win the presidency.

The Covid pandemic was a major topic during the election. The US recorded more cases and more deaths than any other country. — PTI

Spectre of drought looms large over HP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 3
With September recording 77 per cent deficient rainfall and October remaining almost dry, a spectre of drought looms large over Himachal Pradesh.

The prolonged dry spell has affected the sowing of early varieties of rabi crops, mainly wheat, and the situation could worsen if rains continued to elude the hill state for some more days.

"The sowing of crops won't be possible till there is sufficient moisture in the soil. The production is bound to fall by 5 to 10 per cent. The situation is worrisome," said NK Badhan, state Agriculture Department Director.

An official said the dry spell could also take a toll on cauliflower and cabbage crops, which were at transplantation stage. These crops are grown over 10,000 hectares — 5,200 cauliflower and 4,800 cabbage — mainly in Kullu, Mandi and upper Shimla region.



Rabi sowing hit as Sept sees 77% rain deficit, Oct goes almost dry

Besides wheat and vegetables, barley, pulses, mustard and linseed are among the other crops grown in Himachal during the rabi season. The decline in temperature too could damage the crops, said agriculture experts.

The winter, meanwhile, has

already set in tribal areas of

Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur districts, causing a sharp decline in the minimum temperature.

Firm tries to divert Yamuna, booked

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, NOVEMBER 3

A mining firm, PS Buildtech Jathlana, has been booked for allegedly trying to divert the flow of the Yamuna by constructing an illegal bundh to undertake mining activities in MT Karhera village of Yamunanagar district.

It is the second case of violation of the National Green Tribunal guidelines in the village in the past 15 days. On October 23, another min-

ing firm — M/s Kawaljeet Singh Batra — was booked for attempting to divert the flow of the Yamuna.

Jaswinder Singh Hooda, Sub-Divisional Officer, Radaur, said he along with junior engineers had visited the quarry in MT Karhera on September 21. It was found that PS Buildtech had tried to divert the natural flow of

the Yamuna by making a bundh using sand, flouting the NGT guidelines.

On the complaint of Hooda, a case was registered against PS Buildtech (Block-12) under Section 431 (damaging river, road or bridge) of the IPC and Section 45 of the Canal and Drainage Act, Haryana, at Jathlana police station yesterday.

Dharampal Singh, SHO, Jathlana, said the Irrigation Department had provided them photographs of the obstruction by the firm.

Unlisted firm procures kinnar from Abohar, cites Central Act

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3
Even as the Punjab Government rejected the Central farm laws, the state mandi board allowed a private firm to buy kinnar from Abohar without paying mandi fee or registering itself with the Agriculture Produce Mar-



Punjab panel allows purchase without charging mandi fee

keting Committee.
HP-based Hindustan Farmland Direct Ingredients Pvt Ltd reportedly bought 2,000 metric tonnes (MT) of kinnar in 2019 and had a target to buy 4,000 MT this year. The company reportedly did not pay 2 per cent mandi fee levied on horticulture crops.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

R'sthan vows MSP on 22 crops, Punjab 2

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3

Unlike Punjab, which has decided to pay minimum support price (MSP) only on wheat and paddy, the farm Bills passed by the Congress government in Rajasthan have assured the payment of MSP on all 22 crops listed by the Centre.

Besides, Rajasthan has also promised to pay fair and

Bills of little use if Centre denies funds: Experts

remunerative price for sugarcane and a fixed price for toria and de-husked coconut.

Not convinced by the move of both governments, agriculture experts and farm leaders say the promise holds relevance only if the Centre approves cash credit limit (CCL) for procurement.

Jagmohan Singh Patiala,

under the central Act.

Dr Darshan Pal, president, Krantikari Kisan Union, said:

"The BJP is trying to usurp the farm trade by giving a free hand to private players."

Partap Singh Bajwa, Rajya Sabha MP, said: "The Punjab Government should collaborate with voices opposed to the Centre's laws. It also needs to prepare an alternative blueprint to revamp the farm sector."

All pvt plants shut, no dearth of cheap power

State buying electricity at ₹3 per unit in open market, cost to drop further by mid-November

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 3
No supply of coal due to the farmers' agitation may have shut power plants in the state, but Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) is buying cheap electricity from the power exchange at market rates, thus saving on crores of rupees.

Besides energy charges, which are too high, roughly Rs 9.75 crore is being paid as fixed charges to all three private power plants. Experts say power costs Rs 3.80 per unit from GVK's Goindwal Sahib Plant, Rs 3.35 per unit from Mansa-based Talwandi Sabo Power Limited and Rs 3 per unit from Rajpura-based Nabha Thermal Plant. Comparatively, power from the open market is available in abun-

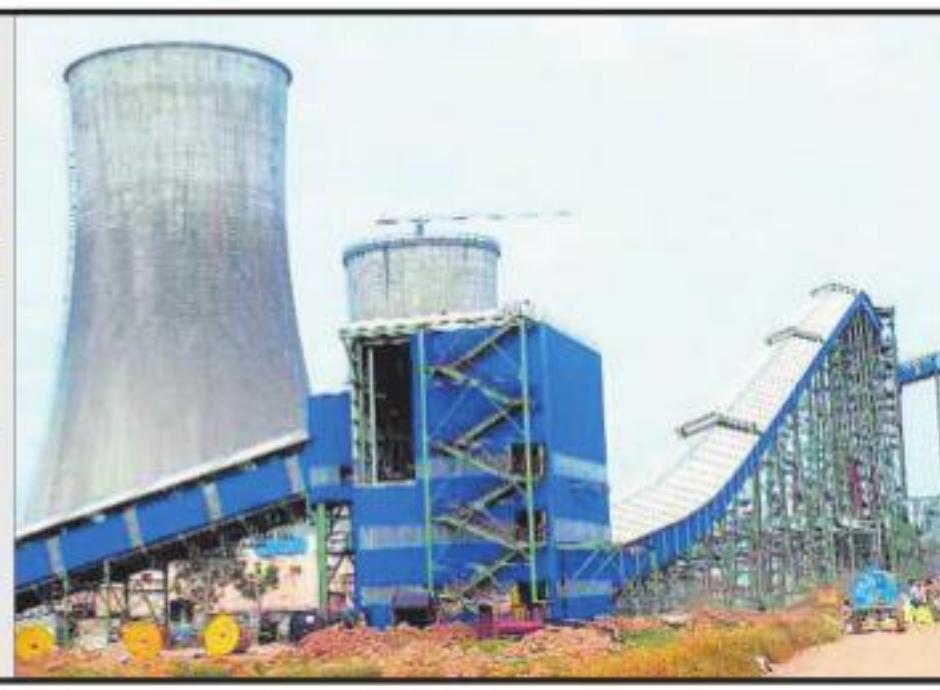
PVT PLAYERS' BURDEN

PLANT	COST PER UNIT
GVK's Goindwal Sahib Plant	₹3.80
Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd	₹3.35
Nabha Thermal Plant	₹3

₹9.75 cr being paid as fixed charges daily

NO ACTION OVER STOCK NORM

PSPCL is yet to initiate action against all three private plants for their failure to maintain at least 30 days of mandatory coal stock, leading to shutdown.



dance at less than Rs 3 per unit and rates are expected to drop further by mid-November. Information gathered by *The Tribune* reveals that even before the farmers' stir started in the state, the three private plants in September had "not adhered to the mandato-

ry guideline of keeping 30 days of coal stock".

Sample this: On September 20, Nabha plant had 2,69,981 MT of coal for 15.43 days; Talwandi Sabo plant had 1,82,438 MT for 5.20 days; and Goindwal Sahib plant had 37,198 MT of coal for 5.31 days.

OPPORTUNITY LOST

“PSPCL had a golden opportunity to finish off the coal stock of the independent power producers and avoid fixed charges... but it made all three producers to operate at partial load. Former PSPCL chief engineer

fixed charges at Rs 10 crore daily as 30-day coal stock was not maintained by them, and thereafter to procure power from exchange at much cheaper rates”, said a former PSPCL CMD.

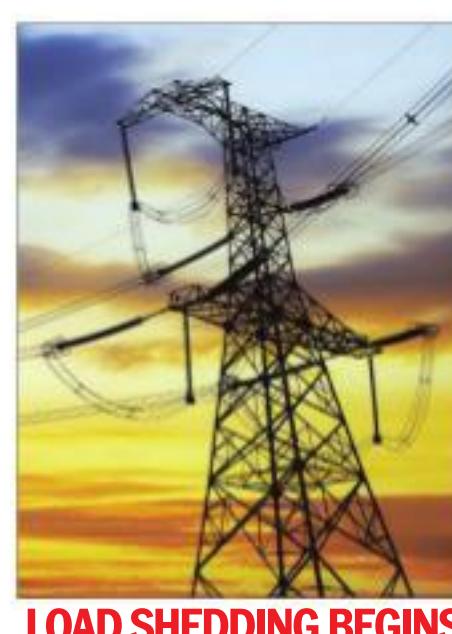
Punjab can easily buy power from the exchange for around Rs 3 per unit. “Consumers will reap the benefit if private plants are kept shut till February. In past winters also, PSPCL bought bulk power from exchange to save on high energy rates charged by private plants,” sources said.

“PSPCL today started a unit each at state-owned Rupnagar and Lehra thermal plants. We could not get 500 MW from the exchange and, therefore, some cuts in villages were imposed. We are managing as for now,” said A Venu Prasad, CMD, PSPCL.

No coal, brace for outages, says govt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 3
The Punjab Government today said it was left with no option but to resort to power cuts, with coal stocks in the state drying up fully as a result of the prolonged suspension of goods trains.



LOAD SHEDDING BEGINS

“Load shedding is now being carried out regularly on various feeders of the state after 4 pm, for four to five hours every day, while agricultural power is also being curtailed on a regular basis. Official spokesperson

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of operation. The state's own thermal power stations of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat (1,760 MW) are also boxed up at present.

Incidentally, in normal circumstances, the day-time demand in the state is typically met from centre public sector stations (2,500 MW), own hydro power stations (375 MW), GVK Thermal (250 MW), renewable, mainly Solar (450 MW) and purchase from power exchange/tenders (2,700 MW).

“After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances”, said the government spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 pm when the coal stock was slated to completely run out. Other private thermal power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW)

HC reserves verdict in Saini case

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3
More than a month after a week's advance notice was directed to be issued in case Punjab's former top cop Sumedh Singh Saini was sought to be arrested "in any case pertaining to any incident during entire service", the Punjab and Haryana High Court today reserved its verdict in the matter.

"The interim order dated September 23 shall continue till the pronouncement of the judgment," Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi said. The Bench, while issuing the earlier order, had also made it clear that the only exception would be the Multani case registered on May 6.

Saini had moved the court for extending the protection granted by the HC vide order dated October 11, 2018, to "any incident pertaining to the entire service career of the petitioner". Taking up his plea expressing apprehensions of false implication in criminal matters "on account of malice, malafides and ulterior motives on the part of the political party in power in the state", the HC had in October 2018 directed the issuance of seven-day advance notice in case action was contemplated against him. —TNS

Relief for realtors amid Covid

RERA grants more time for completion, extension and compliance

KULDIP BHATIA



LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 3
In a major relief to the crisis-ridden real estate sector amid the pandemic, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has granted additional time to promoters of registered projects for completion, extension in validity period of registration and other statutory compliances.

In a circular dated October 28, the RERA chairperson stated that after considering all aspects of the current situation, it had been seen that Covid-19 had affected the real estate sector adversely. Further, CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate

Developers Associations of India), Punjab, and other developers had sought steps to mitigate their woes

'SECTOR HIT ADVERSELY'

- The RERA chairperson said after considering all aspects of the current situation, it had been found that Covid had affected the real estate sector adversely
- The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India, Punjab, and other developers had sought steps to mitigate their woes

on or after March 15, 2020, shall be automatically extended by six months from the original date. This extension will be allowed without payment of extension fee," RERA stated.

Further, RERA has granted extension of six months in validity of registration to all such projects whose reg-

istration had lapsed prior to March 15, 2020, and where applications for extension were under consideration. This extension will be in addition to the extension period that would normally be granted on processing the application.

According to the RERA chairperson, the time limit for all statutory compliances with regard to real estate projects and real estate agents in accordance with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, and the rules made thereunder, which had become due between March 15 and September 15, 2020, has also been extended by six months from the original date.

Five days after minor's rape, police file challan

BARNALA, NOVEMBER 3
Five days after the alleged rape of a four-year-old girl by her 16-year-old neighbour at Dangarh village, the police today filed a chargesheet (challan) in a Barnala court. The accused, also a minor, was arrested the same day and sent to the Ludhiana juvenile home.

"We filed a chargesheet in the Dangarh rape case, which took place on October 28, today. A police team, under the supervision of Barnala SSP Sandeep Goel, has worked hard to prepare the chargesheet in such a short time," said Dhanauala SHO Kuldeep Singh. —TNS

SBI HOME LOANS

INTEREST RATE REDUCED

This Diwali, enjoy special offers on Home Loans and celebrate with SBI.

- 100% WAIVER ON PROCESSING FEE*
- UP TO 25 BPS FESTIVE SEASON INTEREST RATE CONCESSION*
- SPECIAL CONCESSIONS ON YONO APP*

HOME LOAN @ 6.90% ONWARDS*

Khushiyon Se Swagat

T & C Apply

This product maps to the following SDGs and contributes towards Sustainable India.

For more information, visit your nearest SBI branch or visit bank.sbi & homeloans.sbi or call 1800 11 1800.

BSF seizes heroin worth ₹12.5 crore

FEROZEPUR: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday recovered four packets of heroin weighing 2.250 kg, estimated at Rs 12.25 crore in the international market, here. —TNS

State sees slight increase in active cases

COVID CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	20,472	840	Moga	2,475	81
Jalandhar	15,305	473	Fatehgarh Sahib	2,173	102
Amritsar	11,937	460	Tarn Taran	2,012	88
Patiala	12,888	381	Kapurthala	4,094	167
Sangrur	3,951	166	Fazilka	3,089	50
SAS Nagar	12,527	238	SBS Nagar	1,925	65
Gurdaspur	6,928	201	Faridkot	3,253	58
Bathinda	7,219	152	Barnala	2,078	52
Hoshiarpur	6,279	215	Ropar	2,492	117
Ferozepur	4,229	126	Muktsar	3,054	64
Pathankot	4,464	113	Mansa	1,942	36
Total	1,34,786	4,245			

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3
In the last 24 hours, 415 fresh infections and 18 deaths have been reported, taking the tally of cases to 1,34,786 and death toll to 4,245.

In the district-wise breakup of cases, SAS Nagar topped the chart with 76 cases, followed by Ludhiana (59), Jalandhar (52), Hoshiarpur and Patiala (29 each), Bathinda (24) and Amritsar (20).

The number of active cases has witnessed a slight increase at 4,226.

At present, 117 patients are on oxygen support and 15 on ventilator support.

Of the deaths reported, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, SBS Nagar, Pathankot and Ropar have reported two deaths each, followed by Sangrur, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and SAS Nagar (one death each).

Don't call kids for evaluation, teachers told

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3
The state School Education Department has fixed dates for the evaluation of pre-primary students. The students will be assessed from November 18 to 21.

An official said students of pre-primary, classes I and II were examined three times a year to know about their physical and mental development. However, this time, teachers were asked not to call them to schools for evaluation. Instead, they were told to coordinate with the children via telephone and video call.

The assessment will be recorded and shared with the parents in a positive manner. —TNS

WRONG MUTATION OF SHAMLAT LAND

- Suspects committed wrong mutation of 1,295 acres of shamlat land at Seonk village in SAS Nagar district
- Shares of 24 persons in 117 acres were reduced and added to others. A difference of over 99 acres was found
- Many shareholders in whose name mutations were endorsed were not even residents of the village
- The land was further sold to other persons on the basis of the general power of attorney

Gurnam Singh effected the mutation of the shamlat land.

He said while doing the mutation of 1,295 acres' division, shares of 24 beneficiaries — Baljit Kaur, Naseeb Singh, Banta Singh, Ugaj Singh, etc. — in 117 acres were reduced and added to

and had not been traced during the vigilance inquiry.

Dhoot, Raghbir Singh, Iqbal Singh in connivance with property dealer Gujjar, Tarsem Lal, Balbir Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Manbir Singh, Kabal Singh and Gurnam Singh further sold the land worth crores of rupees to Anand Khosla, Nishan Singh and other persons on the basis of the general power of attorney.

He said Dhoot, Iqbal Singh, Gujjar, Gurnam Singh and two others had been arrested. They were produced in the SAS Nagar district court, which remanded them in seven-day police custody. —TNS

TATA MOTORS

Connecting Aspirations

**THIS DIWALI,
THE LOUDEST STATEMENT
WILL BE THE QUIETEST ONE.**

NEXON EV THE ELECTRIC SUV
DRIVE THE LIGHTNING

FREE HOME CHARGING BOX*

FREE AMC* WORTH ₹20,000

Introductory Ex-showroom Price ₹13.99 Lakhs Onwards (All India)

TATA

HELPLINE NO. (9 am TO 5 pm)

6284999031, 6284999032

Email ID : support.punjab@nexters.com

eauctions.piec@gmail.com

For Further Details you may contact:

PUNJAB INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION LTD.

(Punjab Infotech)

18, Himalaya Marg, Udyog Bhawan, Sector 17 Chandigarh

Tel: +91 172 5256400-401 Fax: +91 172 2702423

Email ID : contact@punjabinfotech.in

Website : www.punjabinfotech.in

CLASSIFIEDS**SITUATION VACANT**

Requirement staff IELTS Trainers, Counsellor, Teacher at Pakhowal Ludhiana. 78887-11535, 94644-75860. (CL20059336)

Wanted young experienced and dedicated Catering Captain for Marriage Palace at Barnala. M: 62836-88171. (CL20058419)

Patiala's Bombay Interior decorators requires Field Officer, Marketing Executives & Office staff (Diploma Holders Civil) will be preferred. 98154-23500. (CL20058422)

Mount Litera Zee School, Moga requires Front Office Executives and Accountant with excellent communication skills and MS Office experience. Send resumes at zeesschoolmoga@gmail.com Call 72579-66387. (CL20059501)

Walk In Interview for Graduate Quality Executive -1, Quality Engineer -2, Export Marketing-2, Purchase -1, Laser cutting m/c operator -1. Contact No. 95177-71505, 98788-77888. Email: manpreet@jhaps.com (CL20057364)

Required Project Coordinator, UI/UX Designers, Web Designers, PHP Developers, Wordpress Developers, Digital Marketing Executives. Email us: jobs@creativeindia.net.in, 0181-5001190. (CL20057912)

Shivalik Int'l Public School affiliated to CBSE Naraigarh immediately requires PGT-English, Economics TGT- Science, Social Science, English, interested candidates may send their resume on: shivalikips@gmail.com Contact: 70561-13555, 70560-13555. Free Transportation from Ambala. (CL20058627)

Outsourced Bookkeeping requires Accounts Executive Qualification: B.Com. Exp: 2-3 yrs., Job Location: Mandi Goidvindgarh, salary range: 10K - 15K. Preference will be given to candidates who have knowledge of Advance Excel, Quickbooks. Only candidates from Mandi Goidvindgarh, Khamma, Sirhind need to apply. Send your CV to career@outsourcedbookkeeping.com (CL20056560)

Requires PGT Economics -01, PGT English-02, PGT Physics-01, PGT History-01, PGT Physical Education-1, TGT Mathematics-01, qualification: As per CBSE, salary as per school rules. Candidates ready for long term commitment can apply within 07 days by sending their resume at sbsbsj@gmail.com and call at 98768-43384, 0181-2711222. (CL20059454)

Lincoln College of Education, Sirhind (Fatehgarh Sahib) required Principal-1, Perspective in Education-1, Pedagogy Subjects: Maths-1, Science-1, Punjabi-1, Pay scale/qualifications/ eligibility as norms of Punjabi University/ UGC/ NCETE/ Ph. Govt. Eligible candidates may apply with passport size photo within 21 days, with copy to Dean (Colleges) Panjab University, Patiala. lincolncolleges07@gmail.com (CL20059452)

ADMISSION GUIDANCE

Low NEET score candidates contact for MBBS seats. Package 55-65 lacs. Seats available in Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Karnataka etc. 98730-97977. (CL20059432)

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

Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442 E-mail at circulation@tribunemail.com

Advertisement: Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338 E-mail at classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342 E-mail at advt@tribunemail.com

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Showroom main market Sector 70, Mohali, cheque payment preferred, best opportunity, quick settlement. 77173-93689, 90410-51702. (CL20059402)

LAND FOR SALE

Seven acres land near Faridkot with Tubewell/ canal water for sale. Can exchange with land near Batala/ Amritsar. Dealers excuse. (M) 98726-67033. (CL20059299)

2.3, 4 acres, surrounded by farmhouses, near T-point, New Chandigarh, excellent location/ investment. 94785-01691. (CL20059449)

TOLET

MANIMAJRA

4 BHK duplex independent house for rent, Modern Housing Complex, Phase 3, Manimajra, Chandigarh. Person working in IT City, Bank Officer, Central Govt. Officer, Rs. 28000 negotiable. Covered area 170 sq. feet. ASAP Contact: +61426987610 Owner's Ad. (CL20059262)

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Gaurav Dutta, PCS, Civil Judge (JR. Divn.), Dera Bassi. CNR No. PBSAB00009662020 Pending For: 19.11.2020 Mohinder Singh Versus

Beas Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. & other Suit for possession by way of specific performance of the agreement to sell of full and final payment dated 04.09.1996 and suit for permanent injunction regarding the land measuring 3 bigha 16 biswa comprising in Khasra No. 47/10/(1-2), 10/2(1-6) situated in The Revenue Estate of Village Saipura Hadbast No. 10, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt. SAS Nagar.

Notice to Defendants:-

1) Beas Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at 380, Sector 44-C, Chandigarh through its Managing Director.

2) Mr. K.J.S. Walia Chairman, Beas Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at 380, Sector 44C, Chandigarh. ...Defendants

In above titled Civil Suit the Defendants could not be served, it is ordered that the Defendants should appear in person or through counsel on 19.11.2020 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://www.hightcourts.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali Sd/- Civil Judge (JR. Divn.), Dera Bassi.

DISCLAIMER

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

paper.tribuneindia.com

Balwinder shot at 'gangster's behest', cops suspect enmity

GURBAXPURI

TARN TARAN, NOVEMBER 3 Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh was gunned down on the directions of a gangster, sources have told *The Tribune*.

While police officials are tight-lipped over the developments in the case, the sources say investigations so far have hinted at either personal enmity or gang rivalry of his son, ruling out any terror angle as claimed by the family.

The police have detained around 20 persons for interrogation, it is learnt. SSP Dhruwan Nimbale refused to divulge details, saying it could hamper the probe.

Sources said Balwinder's son Arshdeep Singh, who was lodged in jail in the past,



A suspect being taken to a court in Tarn Taran on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

SON WAS INVOLVED IN JAIL FRACAS

- Balwinder's son Arshdeep, who was lodged in the jail, had a quarrel with a gangster, which later turned into enmity
- The gangster allegedly hired a criminal to eliminate Balwinder, who was trying to save Arshdeep, say sources

had had a quarrel with a gangster, which turned into enmity. It was alleged the gangster hired a criminal to

kill Balwinder, who was trying to save Arshdeep as the latter faced several cases.

On Tuesday, the police

brought Sukhraj Singh lodged at the Patiala jail on production warrant. DSP Rajbir Singh who headed the team that produced Sukhraj Singh in the court also refused to share the details.

Yesterday, the police had brought seven persons on production warrant for investigation. They were identified as Ravinder Singh, alias Gian; and Rajbir Singh, both from Gurdaspur; Ravinder Singh Ravi; Chand Kumar Bhatia; Akashdeep Singh and Ravi Kumar of Ludhiana; and Prabhdeep Singh of Kartarpur.

On October 30, the police had brought gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria on production warrant. The SSP had then claimed he was brought for interrogation in a gang-related incident.

Why accused not arrested, SSP asked

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has taken the police to task over the non-arrest of an accused by directing the Bathinda SSP to file an affidavit, explaining why a petitioner-accused, evading arrest, had not been taken into custody so far.

For the purpose of filing the affidavit before the High Court Registrar-General, Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan has set a two-month deadline. "The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the SSP, Bathinda, at the earliest, for compliance," he added.

The direction came even as the judge dismissed as withdrawn the anticipatory bail plea filed by petitioner-accused Mangal Singh. The matter was placed before the Bench after issuing the directions. —TNS

Directed to file affidavit in 2 months in cheating case

accused filed a second petition for grant of anticipatory bail in a December 2019 cheating case, registered under Sections 420 and 34 of the IPC at Dyalpura police station in Bathinda district.

Justice Sangwan observed the earlier petition was dismissed as withdrawn on August 11. "After arguing the matter for some time, counsel for the petitioner, finding that the court is not inclined to grant the concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner, seeks permission to withdraw the present petition," he observed in the order before issuing the directions. —TNS

Doctor booked for conducting gender tests

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, NOVEMBER 3 An FIR was lodged today against a Jalandhar-based doctor for conducting sex determination tests in violation of the PCPNDT Act.

Dr Balraj Gupta from Ratan Hospital in Jalandhar was booked under Sections 420 and 120B of the IPC and Sections 3, 4, 18 and 23 of the PCPNDT Act, said SHO Rashpal Singh.

A Mission Discovery agency team of the state government, comprising mission director and field officers, raided the Ratan Hospital following a sting.

The assertion came in a case where a petitioner-accused, apparently unhappy with the lockdown imposed due to the Covid outbreak and the way the pandemic was

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**CITIZEN HAS RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH**

6 In a democracy, every citizen has a right to voice his/her opinion freely and criticise the functioning of the government. However, unparliamentary language should not be adopted. HIGH COURT

being handled by the Government of India and Punjab Government, criticised their functioning.

Justice Sudhir Mittal asserted definitely intemperate and abusive language had been used against high officials of the governments as well as elected representatives. But

it did not amount to exciting disaffection towards the government established by law or to excite hatred against it. It also did not amount to inciting religious disaffection or disruption of communal harmony. It was an expression of dissatisfaction with the functioning of the government and criti-

cism of its policies.

"In a democracy, every citizen has a right to voice his/her opinion freely and criticise the functioning of the government. However, the same should be done in a decent manner and unparliamentary language should not be adopted," Justice Mittal asserted.

Before parting with the case, Justice Mittal granted regular bail to petitioner-accused Jasbir in the case registered at the Tanda police station in Hoshiarpur district under the provisions of the IPC, the Epidemic Diseases Act and the Disaster Management Act.

Akali activists booked in 2-mth-old case

MUKTSAR, NOVEMBER 3

Senior SAD leader-cum-former Malout MLA Harpreet Singh today alleged the police were putting pressure on party activists ahead of the Municipal Council elections.

He alleged the police had added names of some SAD activists — Nippy Aulakh, Lappi Ennakhra, Pinder Kang, Chhabeeb Singh and Jaspal Singh Jassa — in a two-month-old case for lodging a protest in Malout town, in violation of Covid norms against Cabinet Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot.

The police claimed the accused were identified some time ago and subsequently their names were added to the FIR. —TNS

State needs to be tolerant while invoking sedition laws, says HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3**

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that the state was required to be more tolerant and circumspect while invoking laws pertaining to sedition and religious disaffection. The Bench added the current tendency to the contrary had been frowned upon by the Supreme Court.

The assertion came in a case where a petitioner-accused, apparently unhappy with the lockdown imposed due to the Covid outbreak and the way the pandemic was

being handled by the Government of India and Punjab Government, criticised their functioning.

Justice Sudhir Mittal asserted definitely intemperate and abusive language had been used against high officials of the governments as well as elected representatives. But

it did not amount to exciting disaffection towards the government established by law or to excite hatred against it. It also did not amount to inciting religious disaffection or disruption of communal harmony. It was an expression of dissatisfaction with the functioning of the government and criti-

cism of its policies.

"In a democracy, every citizen has a right to voice his/her opinion freely and criticise the functioning of the government. However, the same should be done in a decent manner and unparliamentary language should not be adopted," Justice Mittal asserted.

Before parting with the case, Justice Mittal granted regular bail to petitioner-accused Jasbir in the case registered at the Tanda police station in Hoshiarpur district under the provisions of the IPC, the Epidemic Diseases Act and the Disaster Management Act.

The assertion came in a case where a petitioner-accused, apparently unhappy with the lockdown imposed due to the Covid outbreak and the way the pandemic was

being handled by the Government of India and Punjab Government, criticised their functioning.

■ For the appointment of a regular CVO had been pending in the department since the formation of the Congress government

■ For the appointment, as per the Vigilance Commission guidelines, a panel of three names has to be sent by the department to the Chief Secretary, before it is approved by the Chief Minister

■ The role of the CVO in the department will be crucial as the previous CVO had recommended punitive action against department officials in several cases of alleged irregularities

For the appointment of a regular CVO, as per the Vigilance Commission guidelines, a panel of three names has to be sent by the department to the Chief Secretary, before it is approved by the Chief Minister.

The appointment of a regular CVO has been pending in the department since the formation of the Congress government. During the tenure of previous Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Cdr Sudip Malik (retd) was appointed the CVOs but the appointment was never regularised by the government.

He resigned after Sidhu resigned from the state Cabinet.

For the appointment of a regular CVO, as per the Vigilance Commission guidelines, a panel of three names has to be sent by the department to the Chief Secretary, before it is approved by the Chief Minister.

The appointment of a regular CVO has been pending in the department since the formation of the Congress government. During the tenure of previous Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Cdr Sudip Malik (retd) was appointed the CVOs but the appointment was never regularised by the government.

He resigned after Sidhu resigned from the state Cabinet.

For the appointment of a regular CVO, as per the Vigilance Commission guidelines, a panel of three names has to be sent by the department to the Chief Secretary, before it is approved by the Chief Minister.

The appointment of a regular CVO has been pending in the department since the formation of the Congress government. During the tenure of previous Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Cdr Sudip Malik (retd) was appointed the CVOs but the appointment was never regularised by the government.

He resigned after Sidhu resigned from the state Cabinet.

For the appointment of a regular CVO, as per the Vigilance Commission guidelines, a panel of three names has to be sent by the department to the Chief Secretary, before it is approved by the Chief Minister.</

68% turnout, polling peaceful



MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, NOVEMBER 3

Baroda voters participated in the byelection enthusiastically on Tuesday as 68 per cent voting was recorded till 6 pm. The fate of 14 candidates was locked in EVMs.

The counting of votes would be held on November 10 at BITS College in Mohana, Sonepat district. Polling passed off peacefully and no untoward incident was reported.

As per officials, the mock poll started at the scheduled time. During the mock poll, eight EVMS were replaced. During polling, 13 EVMS were replaced due to technical snags. Polling started at 7 am, with the elderly, women and youth arriving at polling stations in the morning.

As per official record, 13 per cent votes were polled till 9 am, 19.5 per cent till 11 am, 34.67 per cent till 1 pm, 46.23 per cent till 3 pm,



Women wait for their turn to cast their vote in Kathura village of the Baroda segment on Tuesday.

61.57 per cent till 5 pm and 68 per cent till 6 pm.

Election observer Ram Laxman Prasad Gupta, DC Shyam Lal Poonia and SP Jashandeep Singh Randhawa visited various polling booths to take stock of the situation. Poonia said polling might go up to 70 per cent as reports from polling booths were yet to be updated.

Yogeshwar Dutt, BJP-JJP

CONG BOOTH AGENT FILES COMPLAINT

- An election agent of Congress candidate Induraj Narwal at booth 176 in Madina village filed a complaint
- He alleged history sheeter Ramesh Luhar and a former minister entered the booth with the intention of capturing it
- He demanded an FIR against Luhar and the former minister
- The SP said, "The police verified facts and cross-checked with the Rohtak police. The allegation was found to be false."

candidate, cast his vote at his native village in the morning. Before exercising

7 succumb; 1,684 cases

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 3 With 1,684 Covid cases, the overall tally in the state crossed the 1.72 lakh mark on Tuesday. Seven deaths pushed the toll to 1,817.

Four deaths were reported from Rohtak and one each from Jhajjar, Karnal and Gurugram. Of the 1,817 patients who had died, 1,604 had comorbidities.

The maximum fresh cases were reported from Gurugram (460), followed by Faridabad (296), Hisar (189), Rewari (86), Sirsa (76) and Rohtak (70).

BKU chief debunks 'BJP supporter' claim

NITISH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, NOVEMBER 3

Even as polling was under way on Tuesday, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni appealed to voters in the Baroda constituency to vote for any party except the BJP.

Charuni issued the appeal in a video after some BJP workers allegedly shared a photograph on social media, showing him with former Shahabab MLA and Chief Minister's political secretary Krishan Bedi and his supporters, with claims that the BKU has not extended support to the BJP and we have no poll-related agreement with the BJP. I have appealed to voters to vote for any party except the BJP," he stated.

The BKU had given a call to burn the Prime Minister's effigy at the Pipli grain market, but

changed the venue in view of security arrangements at the proposed site. They burnt the effigy in front of Bedi's house in Shahabab. After Dasehra, Bedi's supporters held demonstrations against BKU leaders, accusing them of personally targeting Bedi and seeking action against them.

extended support to the BJP. Workers of the BJP are misguiding the public and trying to take advantage," Charuni said.

"The meeting was held to resolve the effigy burning issue and had nothing to do with the election. Though I do not think any senior BJP leader would have done this, I want to clarify that the BKU has not extended support to the BJP and we have no poll-related agreement with the BJP. I have appealed to voters to vote for any party except the BJP," he stated.

The BKU had given a call to burn the Prime Minister's effigy at the Pipli grain market, but

changed the venue in view of security arrangements at the proposed site. They burnt the effigy in front of Bedi's house in Shahabab. After Dasehra, Bedi's supporters held demonstrations against BKU leaders, accusing them of personally targeting Bedi and seeking action against them.

MLA 'abuses' agri official on phone

PALWAL, NOVEMBER 3

An audio has gone viral, in which one of the callers, claiming to be an MLA, is heard using "unparliamentary" language with an official of the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board over

problems in procurement of kharif crops in the Hodal mandi. The MLA, identifying himself as Jagdish Nayar, BJP MLA from Hodal, is heard to be talking of the complaints lodged by farmers and others concerned.—TNS

KHALSA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

G. T. ROAD, AMRITSAR www.kceasr.org

Applications on prescribed proforma available with the office of the undersigned are invited for post of Assistant Professor-in-Education (Physics-01/English-01/Punjabi-01/Performing Arts in Music-01) on 3 years contract basis. Salary Rs.15600+6000=21600/- (consolidated). Eligible candidates in accordance with the qualification/ conditions laid down by UGC/NCTE/State Govt/GNDU may send their applications to the Honorary Secretary within 15 days from the publication of advertisement through Registered Post. Desirable Ph.D. in Education/Reservation for SC/ST candidates and person with disabilities will be followed as per rules of GNDU/Pb.Govt. as the case may be.

PRINCIPAL DR. HARPREET KAUR RAJINDER MOHAN SINGH CHHINA

Ph.: 0183-5015600, 5063600 Hon. Secy. Khalsa College Charitable Society, Amritsar

Recruitment for eVIN Project in Punjab

XEAM Ventures Pvt. Ltd (An HR & ITES Company) invites applications for vacancies arising in District Level for Punjab under Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) - A Ministry of health and family welfare and United Nations Development Programme Project.

Positions & Locations No. Of Vacancies

Vaccine cold chain Managers 12

Experience - A minimum of 3 years of professional work experience at the State level/District level on implementation project in the health sector & 2-3 years proven experience in the public health system and programs at district level. Experience in vaccines supply chain and cold chain will be preferred.

Qualifications :- Minimum of a Graduation Degree in Business Administration/Public Health/ Hospital Management/social Sciences/Material Management/Supply Chain Management from a reputed University / Institution.

XEAM VENTURES PVT. LTD. For more details and to apply please visit www.xeamventures.com/evin-undp

Recruitment for eVIN Project in Punjab

XEAM Ventures Pvt. Ltd (An HR & ITES Company) invites applications for vacancies arising in District Level for Punjab under Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) - A Ministry of health and family welfare and United Nations Development Programme Project.

Positions & Locations No. Of Vacancies

Project Officer (Operations) 1

Experience - Essential requirement of minimum of 2 Years experience in similar nature of health sector. Desirable **Age**: As on 01.07.2020, not more than 40 years **Qualifications**:- Post Graduate degree in Public Health/ Hospital Management/Hospital Administration from a reputed and recognised university.

Positions & Locations No. Of Vacancies

Project Officer (Information Technology) 1

Experience - A Minimum 2years of professional work experience in managing information technology driven projects. **Age**: As on 01.07.2020, not more than 40 years **Qualifications**:- A minimum Degree on B.Tech or B.sc in IT/Computer science from any Govt. Recognized Institute.

XEAM VENTURES PVT. LTD. For more details and to apply please visit www.xeamventures.com/evin-undp

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR

Ph.D. Admission 2020-21

Online applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. 2020-21 in various courses latest by **16.11.2020**. For details consult University website www.gndu.ac.in.

Director of Research

DBU DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY (Admission Notice)

DBU DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY (Approved 12B HEC)

Ph.D/ M.Phil (Full Time/ Part Time)

Registration Starts : 4th Nov, 2020
Entrance Test : 22nd Nov, 2020

For more info visit www.deshbhagatuniversity.in APPLY NOW

T&C apply

M. 8283811111, 9855007125

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TENDER

Sr. No	Name of Department	Name of Work	Est. Cost In Lacs	Website of the Dept.	Tender Download Start Date	Tender Download End Date	Tender opening date	Tender No.	Nodal Officer/Contact Details
1.	Municipal Committee Pundri	Providing & Fixing of Durable Twin Dustbin in blue and green color in the limit of Municipal Committee Pundri.	03.33	etenders.hry.nic.in	04-11-20 at 09:00 AM	12-11-20 at 05:00 PM	13-11-20 at 01:00 PM	PUN066202010 22143042	Sh.Ashok Kumar, Secretary Email id:- secretarympundri01@gmail.com

हसता ।-, सचिव, नगरपालिका पूँजी

THE HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

Regd. Office:-New Himrus Building, Circular Road, Shimla-171001(H.P)

C I N:- U70109HP1966SGC 002683, Tel No.0177-2621426 / 2624751 / 2625339

Fax: 0177-2624278 e-mail: hpsdc@rediffmail.com web site:hpsdc.nic.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

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

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender (i/c G.S.T.)	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Class
1)	Providing flood protection work in right bank of Chanour Khad RD 0.00 to 750.00 to protect Ind. Area at Chanour, Distt. Kangra (HP).	Rs.1,74,18,111/-	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 2,06,700/-	Four Months	A & B

Schedule and terms and conditions:-

Date and time for download of bidding documents from e-procurement portal.	Date & time for online submission of bids, required documents, cost of form and earnest money	Date & time of opening Technical Bids/Financial bid.
From	To	
04.11.2020 11:00 AM	17.11.2020 5:00 PM	04.11.2020 11:00 AM 17.11.2020 5:00 PM 18.11.2020 11:00 AM

1. Time for Online submission of required documents, cost of form & earnest money is 04.11.2020 to 17.11.2020.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be published on website only <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>.
3. The bids should be submitted online on website <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>. Bidders shall get registered themselves on website <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>.
4. Other details of the eligibility and qualification criteria as well as scope of work can be seen in the online bidding document. For detailed terms and conditions log on to website <https://htp.tenders.gov.in>. The successful bidder shall get the work registered with the Labour Officer concerned and intimate the Labour Officer the amount of work awarded before start of execution of work if awarded.
5. The bidders must have successfully completed similar type of one work not less than 40% of estimated cost during last five years in any Govt. Deptt. / Public sectors (without liquidated damage or compensation) in respect of work at Sr. No. 1. The certificate should be issued by the concerned Executive Engineer/ competent authority.
6. Successful bidder shall submit geotechnical investigation reports if required and Structural Design/ working drawing duly vetted from Govt. Institute i.e. NIT or PEC to the concerned Engineer-in-charge within 25 days after issue of award letter. This shall be treated as incidental to work and nothing shall be paid extra.
7. Contractors have to upload clear copies of all the documents. Copies not scanned properly or uploaded not clearly, will not be considered.
8. The bidder shall have to fulfill the requirements of EPF.
9. The bidders are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra.
10. The Executive Engineer/competent authority reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the bids or withdrawn from tendering without assigning any reason thereto.
11. If the date of opening of tender is declared a holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day on same time.
12. Contractor has to submit the working programme/working schedule, name of authorized representative to received the instruction form the Engineer and sign the formal agreement with the Engineer-in-charge i.e. Executive Engineer within 15 days of award of work.

Executive Engineer HPSDC Ltd. Shimla for and on behalf of the Managing Director

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, PUNJAB.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the Kashmiri Migrants that the Department of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Government of Punjab after considering the guidelines issued by All India Council for Technical Education and Ministry of Human Resources Development has reserved one seat in each Engineering/MBA/MCA/Hotel Management & Catering Technology in Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala, Punjabi University, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic Colleges of the State for admission of wards of Kashmiri Migrants for the academic session 2020-21. The counseling of the candidates shall be held on 11.11.2020 at 10:00 A.M. in the Committee Room of Directorate of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Punjab, Plot No. 1, Sector 36-A, Chandigarh. The last date of submission of complete application is 09.11.2020 upto 5.00 p.m. at Directorate of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Room No. 208, Plot No. 1, Sector 36-A, Chandigarh. The other details about courses and guidelines for admission and prescribed proforma are available on the Directorate's website www.dte.punjab.gov.in</p

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Gender sensitivity needed

Address male subjectivity in judicial decisions

THE Madhya Pradesh High Court's order granting bail to a molestation accused on the condition that he would request the victim to tie him a 'rakhi' has attracted widespread criticism it deserved for displaying lack of gender sensitivity. During the hearing of a PIL filed by women lawyers against the order, Attorney General KK Venugopal termed it as 'nothing less than a drama that must be condemned.' Unfortunately, the order is not an exception. It's the reflection of a deep-rooted malaise afflicting the Indian judiciary which remains a male bastion even in the 21st century when women are marching shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts in every sphere of life. As on September 1, there were only two women judges in the Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges. The representation of women in the 25 high courts too remains a matter of concern as there were only 78 women judges against the sanctioned strength of 1,079.

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad recently told the Lok Sabha that the high courts of Patna, Manipur, Meghalaya, Telangana, Tripura and Uttarakhand didn't have any woman judge at all, while the high courts of Gauhati, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Sikkim had only one each. 'Seventy years after the birth of a post-colonial independent state, there is still a need for change in attitudes and mindsets to recognise the commitment to the values of the Constitution,' said a Bench led by Justice DY Chandrachud in February this year while paving the way for women in command positions in the Army. Venugopal has suggested that judges need gender sensitisation. The Supreme Court has indicated that it would lay down guidelines for judges to deal with such cases.

While these steps must be welcomed, much more needs to be done. The Supreme Court collegium must take a conscious decision to elevate more women to the Bench. Else, it would be difficult to address the issue of male subjectivity in judicial decisions as reflected in the MP High Court's controversial bail order due to under-representation of women in the judiciary.

Court rap for EC

Poll panel should decisively counter charges of partisanship

EVEN as the Election Commission (EC) of India is conducting the Bihar Assembly elections and bypolls in 11 states amid restrictions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, it has hit the headlines for the wrong reasons. The Supreme Court has stayed the EC order that had revoked the 'star campaigner' status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath. The senior Congress leader is under fire from his political rivals for making objectionable remarks against CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP candidate Imarti Devi. The commission claims that Nath not only repeatedly violated the model code of conduct but also 'completely disregarded' the advisory issued to him, while the former CM says the EC took action against him without issuing a showcause notice or giving him a hearing on a complaint lodged by the BJP.

Taking the EC to task for exceeding its brief, the apex court asked a probing question: 'How can you determine who is their (party's) leader?' The poll panel's argument that Nath's plea had become infructuous as campaigning had ended cut no ice — and rightly so — with the Bench. Not for the first time, the EC has been accused of ignoring or condoning model code violations committed by leaders of the ruling party. Such allegations make it critical for the commission to be more cautious and avoid decisions that reek of partisanship. No party should have a grouse if the EC adopts the same yardstick while dealing with complaints from all sides.

For the record, the commission had ordered the BJP early this year to remove a couple of leaders from its list of star campaigners for the Delhi polls over their controversial speeches. The EC then barred them from campaigning for a few days after their replies to the showcase notices were found unsatisfactory. The due process was apparently not followed in Nath's case, prompting him to move the Supreme Court. The model code of conduct has a long list of guidelines for politicians and political parties. Eventually, it all boils down to how fairly and objectively the EC interprets the written word and takes exemplary action to deter the violators.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In the dust of defeat as well as the laurels of victory, there is glory to be found if one has done his best. — Eric Liddell

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

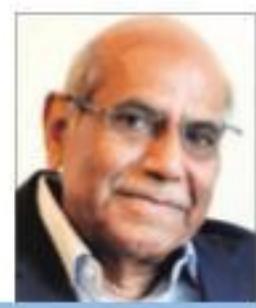
LAHORE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1920

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

THE meeting of the first session of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Bombay is a unique event in our economic and political history. It opens a new chapter in that history pregnant with great and far-reaching possibilities for the national movement. After all, the nation, in Bright's words of moving simplicity, dwells in the cottage; and the men who dwell in the cottage are the humble labourers and the humble tillers of the soil. It is all very well for those who do not live in the cottage, and some of whom actually live in palaces, to speak in the name of the nation as long as the nation is unable to speak in its own name, and no one can deny the supreme importance of this process during the stage of transition from autocracy and absolutism to popular sovereignty. But the process is only preparatory. The real work begins when the nation becomes conscious of itself, of its inherent rights, its limitless possibilities, its mighty destiny. The change makes itself felt immediately by the strength and the dynamic force it imparts to the whole movement. Who can fail to distinguish the national movement of to-day from the national movement of a quarter of a century or even a decade ago? And what is this change due to if not the growing self-consciousness of the real nation, its growing participation in national activities? What made the late Mr. Tilak the great power that he was? What is the secret of the wonderful influence of Mr. Gandhi himself? Is it not the existence between them and the masses of the people of a tie of mutual sympathy and mutual confidence such as never existed between the former and our older leaders? But in the progressive evolution of the national movement even this stage is only transitory. Labour in India can no longer be ruled by sympathetic outsiders.

China's grand dream

Xi Jinping keen to make his country the world's strongest power in the next decade



SHYAM SARAN

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SENIOR FELLOW, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

THE 5th plenum of the 19th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party met from October 26 to 29. Its deliberations and outcome give an indication of how the party leadership perceives the current domestic and international situation and how it intends to position itself in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape to achieve what President Xi Jinping has described as the China Dream of a great rejuvenation of the country. The plenum reaffirmed the unchallenged leadership of Xi Jinping, who is now called "a core navigator and helmsman". Only Mao Zedong was called a helmsman in the past. Xi is aspiring to the same elevated status.

The plenum took a decision on the 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) which will run from 2021-25. However, it also adopted a 15 years long-term plan, to make China "a great modern socialist nation" by 2035. This may suggest that Xi Jinping intends to stay as leader at least till that date, leaving behind a legacy of a strong and prosperous nation. There is no successor on the horizon.

The plenum did not announce any target for GDP growth for the next five years. However, an advisor to Xi declared that China had the potential to grow at 5% per annum up to 2035. Currently, China's GDP is \$14.9 trillion with a per capita figure of over \$10,000. It is estimated that by 2035, per capita income would reach \$30,000 per annum, making China one of the richest countries in the world. Even if this is an exaggeration, there is little doubt that we are witnessing an unprecedented transformation in the global power balance with China far outstripping the US in



GREAT REJUVENATION: Xi Jinping wants a strong, prosperous nation to be his legacy.

With China aiming to outstrip the US by 2035, the balance of power may witness a transformation.

terms of GDP. The US GDP today is \$21 trillion and it is unlikely to grow at a rate beyond its recent average of 2% per annum. No wonder that Xi Jinping's speech and the communiqué issued by the plenum reflect immense confidence in China's ability to emerge as the world's strongest power within the next decade. Xi alluded to this in his assessment of the international situation: "Today's world is experiencing a great change not seen in a hundred years. The balance of international power is being profoundly adjusted."

The profound adjustment is China's emergence as a potential hyper power. The challenges that must be overcome in order to reach the 2035 goal have also been recognised. These are: (i) keep the economy growing in a pandemic-impacted environment; (ii) overcome supply chain disruptions; (iii) deal with an unfavourable international environment; and (iv) maintain growth during a global economic downturn.

In order to tackle these challenges, it is proposed to pursue what has been called a "dual circulation strategy", which would take the domestic market as the base for development, but

maintain an economy open to foreign trade and investment. The stress is on greater self-reliance through developing domestic consumption. The communiqué lays great emphasis on technological innovation as the driver of growth. It describes innovation as being in the "core position" in the strategy of growth being adopted.

While the plenum itself did not spell out the key focus areas, these are apparent from the several commentaries in the Chinese media. A major energy transition is envisaged to achieve a carbon-neutral economy by 2060. China intends to promote not only electric vehicles, but also the hydrogen fuel economy. There will be a transition from what is known as the "consumer internet" to "industrial internet" in which the widespread adoption of 5G networks will play a critical role. This will enable the country to raise the declining productivity of its manufacturing sector. The capital output ratio in China is now 6 as against 3.3 in 2005, which means that to produce a one-dollar increment in GDP, six dollars need to be invested.

This has to be reversed if the ambitious targets, both in the next five-year plan and the 15-year perspective

plan are to be met.

China is determined to reduce its dependence on imported semi-conductors and to become a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, cloud computing and quantum computing. These were already included in the China 2025 plan and a huge amount of R&D expenditure has been allocated to these sectors. From the plenum, it is clear that an even greater effort will be made to achieve relative self-reliance in these high-tech domains. There may be higher costs incurred in the initial phases, until these technologies mature, but China is clearly ready to pay the price.

State-owned enterprises (SOE) are likely to continue to enjoy a privileged status vis-a-vis the private sector and some will serve as champions in the new technology areas. SOE reforms have not yet yielded significant results. The rate of return on assets for SOEs is only 4% compared to 9% for private enterprises. This may be a redacting factor in future growth.

China's early recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic even while advanced Western economies are still struggling to contain it, puts it in a pole position in the post-pandemic economic race. Chinese leadership is conscious that relations with the US and the West in general are likely to remain tense and even confrontational. A change of leader at the White House is unlikely to usher in a shift in Sino-US relations. However, there is a sense that the sheer scale of China's economic advance and its ability to shift gears towards a more self-reliant strategy of growth, driven by technological innovation, will enable it to emerge as the most powerful country in history. There is little anxiety evident over the spread of negative perceptions of China. For its leaders, power will be its own persuasion in its relations with other countries. India, like the rest of the world, will have to manage a much more complex geopolitical landscape in which China sees itself as the 'axial power'. The Quad, in its present loosely structured incarnation, is unlikely to serve as a credible countervailing coalition.

When the PM's plane went missing

LT GEN VG PATANKAR (RETD)

IT had been raining pretty heavily, not unusual for the weather in the North-east. Our air observation flight, manned by Army pilots, was under the command of the air force station, Tezpur. My officers and their wives were spending a relaxed evening at our home when the phone rang. "Sir, the air force station commander wants to talk to you."

"Pat, how many of your aircraft are serviceable and air crew?" "Sir, we have three airworthy choppers with crew." "Splendid, then be prepared to launch them, at first light." "Sure sir, we will be airborne at first light. But sir, what's the mission?" "Oh, don't you know, the prime minister's air-

craft is missing. You have to launch search and rescue (SAR) missions."

My mind was whirring. Did I actually hear what I did? That kind of thing is the stuff of novels or movies (I had seen a film called *The President's plane is missing!*)! A hush descended as my pilots were also listening to the conversation.

In the next few minutes, I briefed everyone about the mission assigned. As the adjutant got busy sending out instructions to the ground staff, technicians and air traffic controllers, the rest of us began planning for the mission.

Everyone seemed excited and eager to go. Just then, the phone rang again. It was the staff officer of the station commander. "Stand

down, sir. They found the PM and he is safe. We don't have more details but the SAR mission is off." Though we were happy that the prime minister was safe, there was a sense of disappointment at missing out on a possibly historic mission!

I had some work with the station commander, so I flew out to Tezpur at dawn the next day. As I made my way towards the station commander's office, I was stopped by the staff officer.

"Sir, he is with the Chief of Air Staff. He is here to personally fly the Prime Minister back to Delhi. The PM is about to arrive from Jorhat in a short while."

I was at the air traffic control tow-

er when I saw a Mi-8 helicopter coming in to land. The air chief and the station commander were already there. The first to disembark was the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai. He looked sharp and almost radiant. One could scarcely believe that just a few hours earlier, he had come out of a life-threatening air crash. Brushing aside the question about his well-being, he insisted that he was perfectly well, but there were others in the aircraft, including his son, who were injured and needed to be taken care of!

In a matter of less than 12 hours, I had gone through dramatic moments and a stirring display of sterling character and leadership in adversity. It was the 4th of November, 1977.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Take precautions

Apropos of the news report 'India tops global recoveries (Nov 3)', our country is mainly agricultural and a majority lives in the villages. They work hard and generally lead a healthy lifestyle with strong immunity. That is why our country tops in global recoveries and the death rate is low compared to the density of population. But people have a tendency to become negligent, especially because of the festive season. Respiratory problems are common during winter.

So, people need to take precautionary measures to prevent a recurrence of the coronavirus infection.
RAVINER KWATRA, SHAHABAD MARKANDA

Reviving economy

This refers to the editorial 'GST flip (Nov 3)'. The rising GST collection is primarily on the back of pent-up demand, festive season and the performance of the rural economy. Any spurt now in Covid caseload or exacerbating of geopolitical tensions shall have an adverse bearing on the economy. It is important that the government does not indulge in a lockdown rerun or steps that are detrimental to the revival of the economy. The situation is fluid and how the economy performs in the foreseeable future is anybody's guess. What is noticeable, however,

is that the disposable income of the common man is declining, and poverty and unemployment are rising while the government continues to maintain silence on these issues.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA

Path of agitation

Present-day rulers appear to be far removed from the ground realities. Carelessness, callousness and corruption are evident and proving to be an impediment in good governance. It is the frustration that is manifest. It may be justified, but will prove to be detrimental for everyone, if it gets prolonged. The Gurjars in Rajasthan have also now taken to blocking rail traffic while demanding reservation. While it is everyone's right to air his grievances and demand resolution, damage to public property should be avoided.

BAKSHI GURPRIT SINGH, JALANDHAR

Separate capitals

In reference to 'Dushyant for separate capitals for Pb, Hry', changing the existing set-up can prove to be an unaffordable burden on the depleting coffers of these states. The need of the hour is to have a common governor for small adjoining states as also new norms for the economy and other benefits. To maintain our unity in diversity, cre-

ation of states with concentration of ethnic or other loyalties should be discouraged.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKULA

US presidential elections

Refer to the 'Battle for US presidency set for close finish (Nov 2)', it's remarkable that the US, possibly the most diverse nation, is choosing between two elderly white men to lead it out of the tailspin that the Covid-19 has caused. This is the time America and the rest of the world need leadership, and if America doesn't choose wisely, China is waiting to dictate a new world order. Should the US vote for a man who has been divisive and broken ethical and moral values, even though he did correctly call out China's hypocrisy? Or should the US vote for a man who by all accounts is a nice guy, but has clear signs of age-related degeneration? American voters are caught between the devil and deep sea. It's electoral system is deeply flawed because of the concept of electoral college, where a candidate can lose the plurality of the nationwide vote by a massive margin and yet win the right to sit in the White House.

N SADHASIVA REDDY, BENGALURU

Batala's problems

Development work is in full swing in Batala. Storm sewers are being laid, but all this is creating problems too. The roads have been dug up to lay sewer pipes, but the dust on the roads and the traffic are polluting the air in the town. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the authorities should take steps to keep the situation under control.

RAJIV BOOLCHAND JAIN, ZIRAKPUR

Batala's problems

Development work is in full swing in Batala. Storm sewers are being laid, but all this is creating problems too. The roads have been dug up to lay sewer pipes, but the dust on the roads and the traffic are polluting the air in the town. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the authorities should take steps to keep the situation under control.

KULBIR SAGGU, BATALA

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

How Punjab did its bit for space programme



RAJESH KOCHHAR

HONORARY

PROFESSOR, PU

ARUN GROVER

EX-VC, PU, & RAJA

RAMANNA FELLOW

Commission two years later. This was the beginning of Indian strategic science. On Bhabha's death in 1966, Vikram Sarabhai was appointed his successor. Sarabhai initiated the space programme, of which the missile programme became an offshoot.

In 1945, it was decided to send abroad a certain number of students at government expense for advanced courses in technical and science subjects directly related to post-war needs. Two of the early beneficiaries of the overseas scholarship scheme were alumni of the University of Punjab, Lahore: Satish Dhawan and Brahm Prakash.

Dhawan was the son of Rai Bahadur Devi Dayal Dhawan, an MSc and LLB who joined the Punjab Civil Service and rose to be a sessions and district judge.

Satish passed his Intermediate examination from Government College, Ludhiana, and BA in physics and maths in 1938 from Government College Lahore. He went on to do an MA in English in 1941. Presumably,

at that time, he was interested in following in his father's footsteps as a civil servant. The contraction of opportunities due to the war may have put paid to his original plans. He then enrolled at the MacLagan Engineering College and obtained a BE (Honours) degree in mechanical engineering with two gold medals and a handsome scholarship in 1945. He had joined HAL at Bangalore for practical training, and in 1946, left for the US on government scholarship, to return in 1951 with a doctorate in aeronautics and mathematics from Caltech.

He joined the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and has the distinction of being its longest serving Director (1962-81). The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was set up in 1969 with Sarabhai as Chairman. On Sarabhai's death in 1971, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi hand-picked Dhawan to take over. Dhawan



ICONS: APJ Abdul Kalam (centre) flanked by mentors Satish Dhawan (left) and Brahm Prakash. This year marks Dhawan's birth centenary.

headed ISRO from 1972 till 1984. In 2002, ISRO renamed its Sriharikota rocket launch centre (SHAR) as Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

In 1976, the Punjab Government prefixed Dhawan's name to Government College, Ludhiana (GCL). Dhawan's matric and BA certificates mention his name as Satish Kumar Dhawan (SKD). Subsequently, he shortened his name by dropping Kumar. It is not clear under what circumstances the Punjab college chose to add Chandra as his middle name while naming itself as SCD-GCL.

Dhawan led from the front. In the initial stages, when there was failure, he did not look for scapegoats, but manfully took the blame upon himself. But later, when there was success after success, he retreated into the background so that limelight might fall on his associates and subordinates. He was a suave, polished gentleman. It

has been shared recently that the only time his Punjabi heritage manifested itself was, perhaps, in the language directed at nobody in particular, which was uttered by him while driving.

ISRO was fortunate in having the services of the Lahore-born metallurgist Brahm Prakash (who did not use his family surname Sekhri). Born in 1912, Prakash passed his Intermediate from Samatan Dharm College. He then enrolled at Government College, Lahore, from where he obtained BSc Honours in chemistry in 1933. He then joined SS Bhatnagar's chemistry lab from where he did MSc, and then PhD in 1942. His father worked for the railways. Prakash also joined the railways at their metallurgy lab in Ajmer where he worked during the war. In 1946, he left for the US and obtained an ScD (Doctor of Science) from MIT in 1949.

On return to India, Prakash was cho-

sen by Bhabha for the position of metallurgist in the Atomic Energy Establishment. From 1951 to 1957, Bhabha had asked him to remain on the faculty of the Indian Institute of Science, when he moved to the Atomic Energy Establishment in Bombay where he focused on the indigenous development of nuclear fuels. On retirement from Bombay in 1972, Dhawan persuaded Prakash to move to Trivandrum to head the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS). He finally hung up his boots in 1979 due to ill health, shortly before the first successful launch of SLV-3 in February 1980.

On his visit to Thumba as President, APJ Abdul Kalam recalled that he "was fortunate to be associated with three great human beings — Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Professor Satish Dhawan and Dr Brahm Prakash."

Yash Pal became a household name with Doordarshan's science series

Turning Point, which began in 1991 and ran for more than 150 episodes. His place in science history, however, rests on firmer grounds. His studies were interrupted due to Partition. SS Bhatnagar helped him pass through the MSc Honours School in physics in 1949 from the then East Punjab University by arranging classes for his batch at Delhi University. He, however, had already joined Bhabha's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) as a research student. In 1954, he proceeded on leave from TIFR to MIT from where he obtained a PhD in 1958.

He was the first Director (1973-81) of the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad. In 1975, India became a participant in the American Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE). Dhawan asked Yash Pal to direct the SITE India programme. Yash Pal's felicity with instrumentation, his ability to enthuse and persuade people, including Indira Gandhi; his ability to inspire younger people; and his love for teaching, all combined to make the educational TV programme a success. The US had made its satellite available only for a year: from August 1975-July 1976. To continue the programme, India contracted a commercial satellite from Ford Aerospace and then decided to develop its own satellite network as part of the INSAT programme.

Independent India embarked on strategic science. It was a challenging task because we had no previous experience and external technological and other assistance was not forthcoming. India made a great success of its mission. The synergy between Dhawan, Brahm Prakash and Yash Pal propelled them and the others engaged in space research to make unprecedented contributions which are nationally recognised, but deserve to be better known in Punjab itself.

Timely care vital in reducing Covid mortality



DR KK TALWAR

FORMER DIRECTOR, PGIMER

THE rate of mortality is an important parameter to judge the severity and impact of a disease. As regards Covid-19, while most patients are usually mild-to-moderately symptomatic, around 4-5 per cent may develop symptoms like severe hypoxia and other system involvement. Of these, a significant number may not survive. The mortality rate of this disease is measured either by the 'case fatality rate' (CFR) or deaths per million people. In Punjab, the CFR is among the highest in the country, and this has been a matter of concern. It is important to appreciate the factors which affect the mortality rate, particularly the CFR, to address the situation.

CFR is defined as the number of deaths divided by the number of people confirmed for Covid. With more testing and identification of a greater number of asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients, the CFR would reduce. On the other hand, the metric of 'deaths per million population' is not affected by the number of performed or positive tests. Thus, 'deaths per million population' is a better and more reliable index while comparing the spread, mortality and effectiveness of the health infrastructure of a region, state or country.

As an illustration, the deaths per million population in Delhi is 296, whereas in Punjab it stands at 134, i.e. less than half. At the same time, the CFR is 3 per cent in Punjab but 1.9 per



ENSURE PREVENTION: With more testing, the case fatality rate would reduce.

cent in Delhi. Since Delhi has performed more tests per million population than Punjab, the CFR figure is lower in Delhi as compared to Punjab, though the number of deaths per million population is more than double in Delhi than in Punjab.

Increased testing is of importance since it helps identify more positive cases that need isolation/quarantine in order to control the spread of the disease. But the number of tests being performed in any area will depend on a number of factors, including the state of the healthcare infrastructure and availability of resources. Social attitudes, social media rumours against testing, education and afford-

ability also play a role. States like Punjab have limitations on account of these factors and testing is avoided unless a person falls ill.

To reduce mortality, we need to scientifically identify the factors responsible for higher mortality. Mortality in Covid-19 cases has, so far, been seen to be dependent on various factors, including the association of comorbid diseases, virulence of the virus, environment and timely availability of healthcare. It is important to address these issues to reduce mortality.

Timely seeking and availability of healthcare for optimum management of the patient is the most vital factor, the importance of which is often inad-

equately emphasised in discussions on mortality rates. A key lesson learnt the world over is that early detection and management go a long way in controlling this disease. The first three to seven days of the onset of the disease are the 'golden period' for treatment and optimal outcomes.

Lack of awareness and even a casual attitude, along with lack of quality healthcare facilities in many districts with large rural populations, are an impediment in the battle to manage Covid. Most people ignore the initial symptoms of hypoxia (main presentation of the disease) and approach hospitals only as a last resort once the situation of the patient substantially deteriorates. In the process, precious time is lost. It is imperative to understand the importance of timely interventions, and take steps to create awareness in this regard. Increasing the availability of quality healthcare facilities offering affordable care is also a must to generate confidence among people.

The experience worldwide has also shown a high mortality rate among those with certain associated comorbid states, like old age, heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney diseases, cancer, and chronic lung diseases. These patients are not only more prone to catching Covid-19 but also have higher chances of mortality. Thus, this group needs special attention to ensure the prevention, early

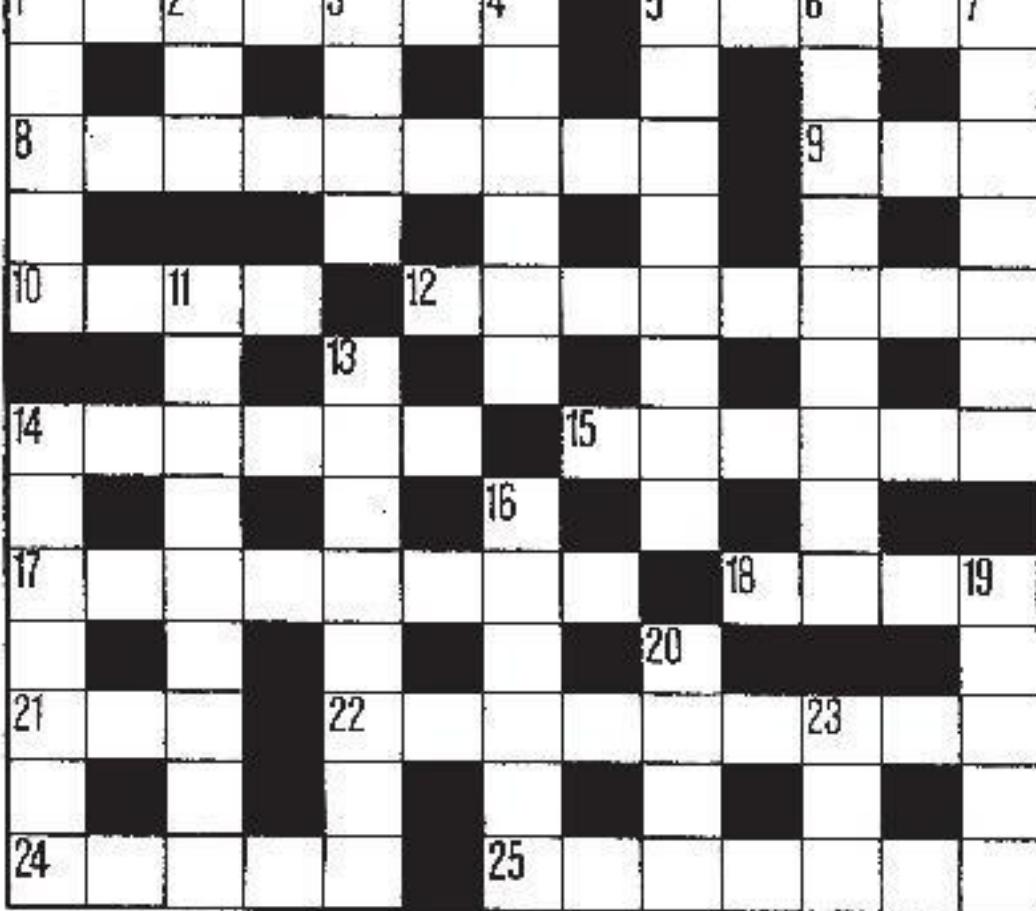
identification and therapy. Again, states like Punjab which have a higher prevalence of these comorbidities need to focus on healthy behaviour change communication, apart from improving their healthcare programmes and infrastructure.

The importance of adopting internationally accepted best practices for Covid prevention and care cannot be overemphasised. Both for controlling the spread and reducing mortality, measures such as the use of masks, hand hygiene and social distancing practices are of critical importance. But, along with imposing penalties for not wearing masks, we need to spread awareness and change mindsets.

Covid-19 is among the most serious health crises in modern times. It has highlighted the shortcomings of our healthcare systems and the current state of medical science. Despite the massive efforts being made to find an effective treatment, no medical solution seems likely to emerge in the short term.

A few drugs showed promise, but their impact on mortality rates is heavily dependent on their timely administration. There also does not appear to be any clarity in regard to the time frame for the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. These are challenging times for governments, administrators and medical professionals. Only concerted and sustained efforts by all can help reduce the prevalence and spread of Covid-19.

QUICK CROSSWORD

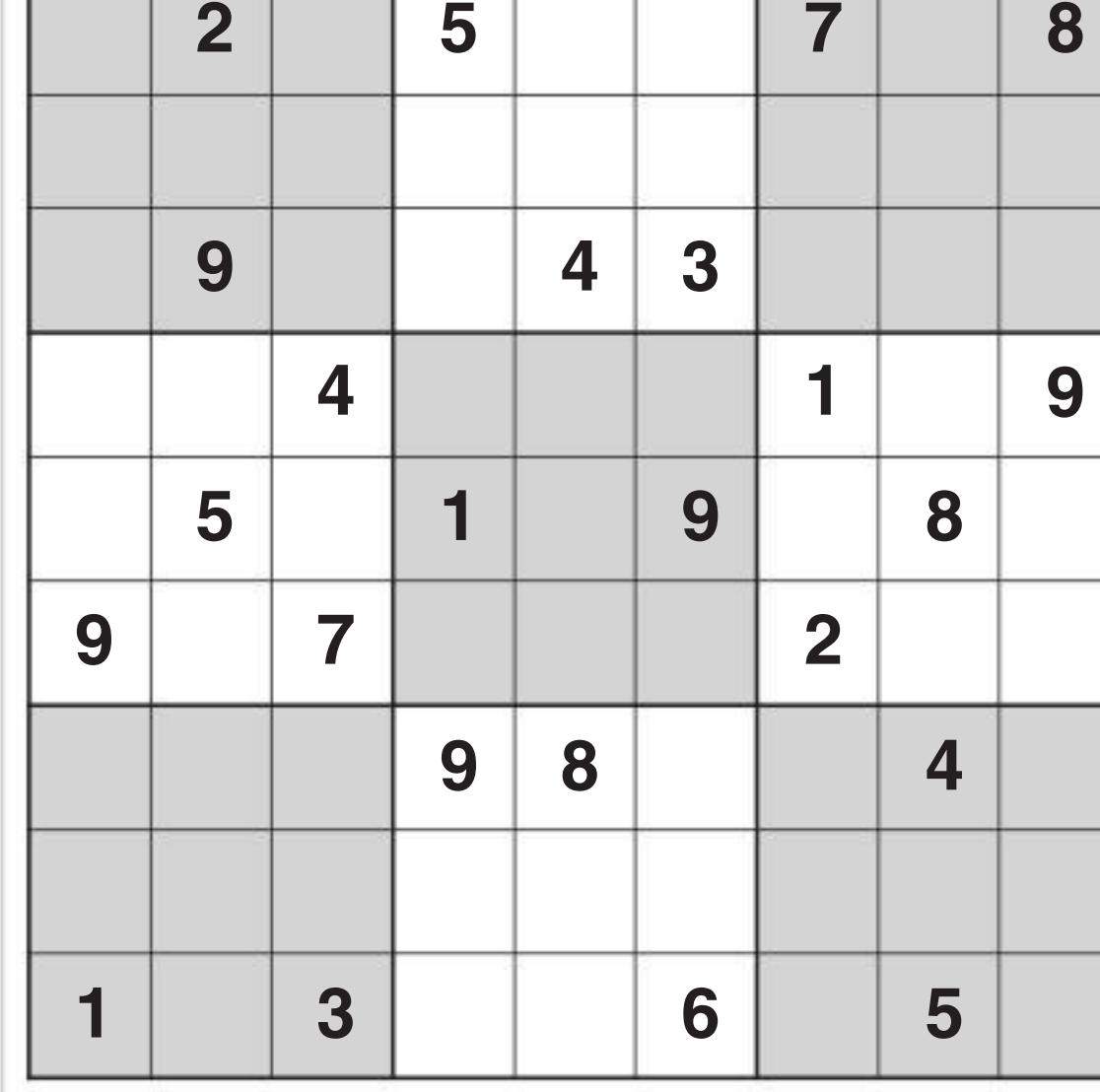


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Mistaken, 5 Glib, 9 Stall, 10 Built-in, 11 Turn a deaf ear, 13 Queasy, 14 Avowal, 17 Absentminded, 20 Diverse, 21 Utter, 22 Rare, 23 Reverent.

Down: 1 Mask, 2 Statue, 3 All and sundry, 4 Embody, 6 Lithe, 7 Bankroll, 8 Misadventure, 12 Squander, 15 Wrestle, 16 Impede, 18 Severe, 19 Brat.

SU DO KU



MEDIUM

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 4, 2020, WEDNESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Kartik Shaka	13
■ Kartik Parvishite	19
■ Hijari	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 4, up to 5.15 am	
■ Shiva Yoga	
■ Mrighshikha Nakshatra up to 4.51 am	
■ Moon enters Gemini sign 3:43 pm	
■ Vrat Karva Chauth	
■ Moonrise 8:09 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 17:32 HRS

SUNRISE: THURSDAY 06:41 HRS

CITY	MAX		MIN		
	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
Chandigarh	29	13	11	12	10
New Delhi	30	10	12	11	9
Amritsar	28	12	10	11	9
Bathinda	31	10	12	11	9
Jalandhar	29	12	10	11	9
Ludhiana	29	11	10	12	10
Bhiwani	30	12	11	13	11
Hisar	31	10	9	11	9
Sirsia	30	12	11	13	11
Dharamsala	23	11	10	12	10
Manali	18	02	01	03	01
Shimla	20	10	9	11	9
Srinagar	20	01	00	02	00
Jammu	30	13	12	14	12
Kargil	09	-04	-03	-05	-04
Leh</					

E-TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT

Tender bids are electronically invited by the Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, H.P. Ghora Chowki, Shimla - 171005 on behalf of Governor of H.P. for the Printing of VIP Double date Diaries 2021, Officer Diaries, 2021 and binding work of Assistant Diaries with hard board binding and sectional sewing and Tinning work of Govt. Calendars and Giriraj Calendars for year 2021 mentioned in BoQ of tender.

Sr. No.	Description	Date up to which tender can be uploaded-submitted.	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids
1.	Printing of VIP Double date Diaries 2021, Officer Diaries, 2021, Binding Work of Assistant Diaries with hard board binding and sectional sewing and for the tinning work of Govt. Calendars and Giriraj Calendars.	26.11.2020 up to 11.00 A.M.	26.11.2020 at 11.30 A.M.

If the opening date happens to be a closed day then the tenders will be opened on the next working day. The complete details including tender form, tender schedules (referred in e-tendering as Bill of Quantity) and terms and conditions will be available for downloading from 07.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M. onwards on website <http://htptenders.gov.in>. The earnest money of Rs. 50,00/- only (Fifty thousand) in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of the Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, H.P. Shimla - 171005 should be submitted before the date of opening of tenders. The cost of tender form is Rs. 500/- which is non refundable and payable in favour of Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, H.P. Shimla - 171005 in shape of Demand Draft, which shall be submitted by post before the date of opening of tenders.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Instruction to Bidders regarding e-tendering process:-**
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (Class-II or Class-III) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned Digital Signature Certificate from any approved vendors. Bidders, who already possess valid Digital Signature Certificate, need not procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. The bids without digital signatures will not be accepted. No proposal will be accepted in physical form.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 - Bidders should get ready with the scanned copies of documents for cover information including cost of documents & EMD as specified in the tender documents. The original documents in respect of cost of tender form, EMD and additional documents if required shall be submitted with the Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, H.P. Shimla - 171005 before the date of opening of tenders.
 - No proposal/tender will be accepted on the basis of hard copies/ manual tender in physical form. Online submission of documents is mandatory.
 - The tender documents shall be uploaded in two covers, Each cover shall contain separately the "TECHNICAL BID" and the "FINANCIAL BID".
 - Cover-1.** shall be "TECHNICAL BID" containing scanned copies of required documents as mentioned in the **Terms & Conditions of tender**. The "TECHNICAL BID" shall be opened on the date of opening of tender(s).
 - Cover-2** shall be "FINANCIAL BID" containing BoQ (Bill of Quantity) of rates. After the evaluation and approval of the technical proposal the "FINANCIAL BID" shall be opened of the technically qualified/accepted bids only.
- The Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, H.P. Shimla may reject such tenders received with incomplete documents or non-receipt of requisite documents within stipulated period.
- The Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, H.P. Shimla reserves the right of rejection/approval of all or any of the tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
- Please contact this office for any kind of technical assistance/guidance.

(Rima Kashyap)

Controller

Printing and Stationery Department

Himachal Pradesh, Shimla - 171005.

DPR/HP/4123

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Matiana (HP)

e-mail:- iphdivisionmatiana@gmail.com

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Matiana on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the undermentioned work from the contractor/firms of appropriate class enlisted with HP Jal Shakti Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	E/Money	Time of completion	Cost of form
1	Deployment of man power of various skilled & un-skilled categories for annual Running & Operation (for one year) for LWSS Cheog Dadas Dehma (2 stages) in GP Cheog & Dadas in Tehsil Theog, Distt. Shimla HP.	635830/-	12720/-	1 year	400/-
2	Deployment of man power of various skilled & Un-skilled category for annual Running & Operation (for one year) for LWSS Jao Shateyan (2 Stages) in GP Shateyan in Tehsil Theog, Distt. Shimla HP.	736205/-	14720/-	1 Year	400/-
3	Deployment of man power of various skilled & Un-skilled category for annual Running & Operation (for one year) for LWSS Halai Majholi (3 Stages) in Tehsil Theog, Distt. Shimla HP.	853370/-	17100/-	1 Year	400/-
4	Improvement of GWSS Bani by tapping new line from SJPNJ Tank Tharmati Bhekhali in Tehsil Theog, Distt. Shimla (SH:- Laying and Jointing of GI pipeline of various dia and C/O RCC Storage Tank 100000 ltrs. Cap.)	1886779/-	37740/-	6 Months	400/-
5	Deployment of man power of various skilled & Un-skilled category for annual Running & Operation (for one year) for LWSS Behna Khad to baad gaon and adjoining villages (3 Stages) in Tehsil Kumarsain, Distt. Shimla HP.	652620/-	13100/-	1 year	400/-
6	Deployment of man power of various skilled & Un-skilled category for annual Running & Operation (for one year) for LWSS Pharal Khadd to Kumarsain (1 Stage) in Tehsil Kumarsain, Distt. Shimla HP.	317915/-	6400/-	1 year	400/-

1 Tender documents and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://htptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

2 As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

Key Dates:-

I	Date of online publication	31.10.2020
II	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 31.10.2020 to 6.11.2020
III	Date of submission of e-tendering.	From 31.10.2020 to 6.11.2020
IV	Physical submission of EMD is:- FDR-fixed deposit/NSC Physical submission of cost of tender documents is DD (Demand Draft)	From 31.10.2020 to 6.11.2020
V	Date of opening of technical bid	6.11.2020 at 11.30 a.m.
VI	Date of opening of financial bid	Shall be intimated Separately

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website <https://htptenders.gov.in>

Conditions:-

- The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 covers:-
 - Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "eligibility information".
 - Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.
- Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded)
 - Earnest money in the shape of NSC/Saving account on any of the Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh/Time Deposit Receipt of any nationalized bank, demand draft duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, I & PH Division, Matiana OR certificate of exemption of Earnest money Deposit along with affidavit as per latest instructions issued vide Addl. Chief Secy. HP (IPH) No. IPH-B (c) 17-2008-1 dt. 29th Oct. 2013.
 - Cost of tender Form in the shape of demand draft of Rs. 400/-.
 - Certificate of registration with HP I & PH Department and in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.
 - Income Tax & GST registration No. and latest clearance certificates of Income Tax thereof.
 - Scanned copy of PAN Card.
- Cover-2 shall contain BOQ where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
- The tenders of the contractors/firm who fail to fulfil the eligibility information will be summarily rejected.
- The contractor will submit the original document in respect of Earnest money and cost of tender document in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Matiana before 6.11.2020 up to 11.00 a.m.
- The negotiation/clarification, if any will be taken from the successful contractor only in respect of error and omission, technical aspects and in no case on financial bid.
- Earnest money of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained for period of 60 days.
- The representatives of the firm should inspect the site himself and make conversant with the site conditions before bidding.
- If opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time.
- The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.
- The Contractor should have executed similar nature of work during the last three years.
- Instructions for e-tendering:-
 - The contractor should register himself on website <https://htptenders.gov.in> and obtain user ID, password, before bidding.
 - Entire tender process will be carried out online through above mentioned website. Contractors/firms are advised to procure e-token/digital signing certificate from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency.
 - Before submission of online Bids, Bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all necessary documents have been uploaded with the bid.

Baddi man booked on rape charge

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, NOVEMBER 3

The Baddi police today registered a case of rape against local resident Saurabh Kumar, who had married a minor girl (she is five months pregnant).

The case was registered on a complaint by the legal-cum-probation officer of the Solan-based Child Protection Unit (CPU). The girl, a Baddi resident, was rescued from Saurabh's house at Kailash Vihar Colony on October 13. She was provided shelter at Kather in Solan by the CPU and during her counselling she revealed that she got married in 2019 in the SDM court at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab. The CPU staff also learnt about her five months pregnancy, following which a complaint was made to the Baddi police.

A case under Section 376 of the IPC for rape and Section 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was registered against Saurabh. A further probe is under way.

ED seeks asset details of MBU owner, family

AMBHIKA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, NOVEMBER 3

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought the details of properties owned by Rajkumar Rana, owner of the tainted Manav Bharti University, his family members and the trust running the university from the Deputy Commissioner, Solan.

The university is involved in a multi-crore fake degree scam and the ED is investigating the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, against it.

"The ED has sought the details of properties owned and held by seven persons, including Rajkumar Rana, his wife Ashoni Kanwar, son Mandeep Rana, daughter Aaina Rana and employees - Parmod Kumar, Krishan Kumar and Anupama Thakur," said officials of the district administration.



Solan university is involved in a degree scam

Pramod Kumar was a data entry operator, who maintained the record of fake degrees, money received from candidates as well as other documentation.

He had been working with the university for the last about six years. He was arrested on March 10 but was bailed out.

Anupama Thakur was the university's registrar who was also arrested by a court. Krishan Kumar, an old associate of Rana who was also its former registrar. He is still in jail.

"The ED has sought the details of properties owned by the university, some years ago. Besides the main campus, about Rs 10 lakh was also earned from the shops rented outside the campus.

A case of cheating and forgery was registered against the university management in March after the secretary of the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission had complained that 103 degrees/diplomas issued by it were found to be fake.

"The university is involved in a multi-crore fake degree scam and the ED is investigating the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, against it.

"The university is involved in a degree scam

Pramod Kumar was a data entry operator, who maintained the record of fake degrees, money received from candidates as well as other documentation.

He had been working with the university for the last about six years. He was arrested on March 10 but was bailed out.

Anupama Thakur was the university's registrar who was also arrested by a court. Krishan Kumar, an old associate of Rana who was also its former registrar. He is still in jail.

"The ED has sought the details of properties owned by the university, some years ago. Besides the main campus, about Rs 10 lakh was also earned from the shops rented outside the campus.

A case of cheating and forgery was registered against the university management in March after the secretary of the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission had complained that 103 degrees/diplomas issued by it were found to be fake.

"The university is involved in a multi-crore fake degree scam and the ED is investigating the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, against it.

"The university is involved in a degree scam

Pramod Kumar was a data entry operator, who maintained the record of fake degrees, money received from candidates as well as other documentation.

He had been working with the university for the last about six years. He was arrested on March 10 but was bailed out.

Anupama Thakur was the university's registrar who was also arrested by a court. Krishan Kumar, an old associate of Rana who was also its former registrar. He is still in jail.

"The ED has sought the details of properties owned by the university, some years ago. Besides the main campus, about Rs 10 lakh was also earned from the shops rented outside the campus.

A case of cheating and forgery was registered against the university management in March after the secretary of the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission had complained that 103 degrees/diplomas issued by it were found to be fake.

"The university is involved in a multi-crore fake degree scam and the ED is investigating the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, against it.

"The university is involved in a degree scam

Pramod Kumar was a data entry operator, who maintained the record of fake degrees, money received from candidates as well as other documentation.

He had been working with the university for the last about six years. He was arrested on March 10 but was bailed out.

Anupama Thakur was the university's registrar who was also arrested by a court. Krishan Kumar, an old associate of Rana who was also its former registrar. He is still in jail.

"The ED has sought the details of properties owned by the university, some years ago. Besides the main campus, about Rs 10 lakh was also earned from the shops rented outside the campus.

A case of cheating and forgery was registered against the university management in March after the secretary of the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission had complained that 103 degrees/diplomas issued by it were found to be fake.

"The university is involved in a multi-crore fake degree scam and the ED is investigating the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, against it.

"The university is involved in a degree scam

Pramod Kumar was a data entry operator, who maintained the record of fake degrees, money received from candidates as well as other documentation.

He had been working with the university for the last about six years. He was arrested on March 10 but was bailed out.

Anupama Thakur was the university's registrar who was also arrested by a court. Krishan Kumar, an old associate of Rana who was also its former registrar. He is still in jail.

"The ED has sought the details of properties owned by the university, some years ago. Besides the main campus, about Rs 10 lakh was also earned from the shops rented outside the campus.

A case of cheating and forgery was registered against the university management in March after the secretary of the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission had complained that 103 degrees/diplomas issued by it were found to be fake.

"The university is involved in a multi-crore fake degree scam and the ED is investigating the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, against it.

"The university is involved in a degree scam

Rohit returns to lead MI despite fitness concerns

SHARJAH, NOVEMBER 3
Skipper Rohit Sharma today returned to the Mumbai Indians' Playing XI for the team's last league game against Sunrisers Hyderabad despite concerns over his fitness. According to Mumbai Indians' team management, Rohit suffered a hamstring strain in his left leg in the game against Kings XI Punjab on October 18.

He ended up missing the next four games before making a comeback on a day when BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, in an interview to PTI, advised him not to rush

Unlisted firm procures kinnow...

FROM PAGE 1
The matter came to light in June following which a notice was issued to the firm for violating the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961.

In its reply, the firm claimed that as per the central Act (passed in September), it was free to buy produce from any state without registration. The legal opinion sought by the Market Committee of Abohar corroborated the claim. On October 16, the mandi board ordered a probe. Ravi Bhagat, MD, Mandi Board, said: "The letter (allowing exemptions) was issued before the state passed Bills. The firm has now been asked to get registered."

₹169-cr assets seized in coal block case

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday ordered attachment of assets worth Rs 169 crore of a firm in connection with its probe into the coal block allocation case. Officials said the case pertained to Topworth Urja and Metals Ltd that was allocated coal blocks in eastern Maharashtra. TNS

Willing to operate more int'l flights under VBM: Puri

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3 The Central Government is ready to fly passengers to international destinations under Vande Bharat Mission (VBM), but some countries have still not removed restrictions on the entry of Indian nationals, said Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday.

For example, Saudi Arabia is one country that does not allow airlines to bring passengers from India.

"We have been operating international flights under the VBM since May 6, 2020. However, some countries, including some in the Gulf region, have still not removed restrictions on the entry of Indian nationals," the minister said in one of his Twitter posts. "We are ready to fly passengers to these countries whenever they ease restrictions," he added.

On October 22, Puri had said the average fare on special flights operating between Kerala and Bahrain are between Rs 30,000 and

SOME COUNTRIES YET TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS

Some countries have still not removed restrictions on the entry of Indian nationals. We are ready to fly passengers to these countries whenever they ease restrictions.

Hardeep Singh Puri,
AVIATION MINISTER

Rs 39,000 as the Gulf country allows only 750 passengers to come from India per week.

Scheduled international flights have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, special international passenger flights have been operating in India under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral air bubble arrangements formed between India and other countries since July. India started scheduled domestic passenger flights on May 25.

SC unhappy with TN Guv sitting over clemency plea of Rajiv's killer

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

As the Tamil Nadu Governor sits over Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict AG Perarivalan's clemency plea for over two years, the Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over it and asked lawyers in the case to suggest what could be done to break the impasse.

Centre defends Central Vista project

"We don't want to exercise our jurisdiction at this stage but we are not happy that a recommendation made by the government is pending for two years," a Bench led by

Justice L Nageswara Rao said.

The top court asked petitioner Perarivalan's counsel if it could exercise its jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution to request the Governor to decide his plea for pardon filed under Article 161. The Bench posted the matter for hearing on November 23. — TNS

Modi: Congress' words and actions don't match

Mocks party's shrinking presence in Parliament

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today campaigned for the third and the final phase of the elections to be held on November 7 in Bihar.

Speaking at Forbesganj and later Saharsa, the Prime Minister congratulated people on participating in the festival of democracy amid the Covid pandemic, reiterating that the NDA was "definitely winning".

He mocked the Congress for its shrinking numbers in the two Houses of Parliament, which have dropped below 100, claiming people were punishing the party for its false promises of poverty eradication and farm loan waiver.

"The party misled people and see what happened....Today, the Congress does not even have 100 MPs in both Houses.... There are several states like J&K, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which have not sent even a single Congress representative to Delhi.... People have not allowed them to step

DELIGHTED OVER GOOD VOTER TURNOUT

■ PM Narendra Modi sought to dismiss any perception of the anti-incumbency factor against the Nitish Kumar government, saying this decade would be dedicated to fulfilment of aspirations.

■ He expressed delight over the better than expected voter turnout, saying the enthusiasm of people in the face of the pandemic presented before the world evidence of democracy's deep roots in Bihar.

'DEMOCRACY HAS DEFEATED DYNASTY RULE'

■ In Bihar, rangbaazi (rowdyism) and rangdaari (extortion) are losing and vikas (development) and kanoon kaa raj (rule of law) are winning and parivarvaad (dynasty rule) is being defeated by janatantra (democracy).



inside the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.... You can imagine how angry people are with them. This is because they say something and do something else," the PM said a day after the NDA crossed the 100-mark in the Rajya Sabha.



General MM Naravane

Army Chief on Nepal visit to mend fences

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

Enhancing military cooperation tops the agenda of the Indian Army Chief General, MM Naravane, during his three-day visit to Nepal, commencing tomorrow. General Naravane is slated to meet Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli in Kathmandu.

On Tuesday, General Naravane said he was looking forward to meeting his counterpart General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Nepal Army. "I am sure this visit will go a long way in strengthening the bond of friendship that the two armies cherish," the Indian Army Chief said.

He will be conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army by the President of Nepal, Vidya Devi Bhandari.

The Indian Army Chief will pay homage and lay a wreath at the Bir Smarak. He will also hand over medical equipment, including ventilators, and interact with trainee officers at the Command and Staff College of Nepalese Army in Shiva-puri. India and Nepal bilateral ties were hit in May after Nepal claimed the Lipulekh region in north-eastern edge of Uttarakhand. Lipulekh is a tri-junction between India, Nepal and China.

The Nepalese claim was made after Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh inaugurated a key border road connecting the Lupulekh Pass. Kathmandu responded by issuing a new map that showed Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura, all controlled by India, as part of Nepalese territory, exacerbating the row. It questioned the treaty of Sugauli signed in 1815 after the Anglo-Gurkha war.

Printed and published by Rajesh Ramachandran for The Tribune Trust

Printed at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

RNI No. 15/57.

Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.

Telephones: 0172-2655066-72

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*

*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

NEXA

Celebrate big with Sophisticated Power.

This festive season, bring home the new S-Cross Petrol with a powerful 1.5L engine.

CREATE. INSPIRE.

MARUTI SUZUKI

Akhtar files complaint against Kangana

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 3

Bollywood lyricist Javed Akhtar on Tuesday filed a criminal complaint against actor Kangana Ranaut in a local court for allegedly making defamatory and baseless comments against him in television interviews.

As per the complaint, Ranaut had recently made certain baseless comments on Akhtar which has caused damage to the reputation of the veteran poet-lyricist. It added that Ranaut dragged Akhtar's name while referring to a

"coterie" existing in Bollywood following the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June. She had also claimed that Akhtar had threatened her not to speak about her alleged relationship with actor Hrithik Roshan, it said. Meanwhile, the police have issued a second notice to Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel, asking them to remain present at the Bandra police station on November 10. — PTI

NEXA

Now available in CSD

NEXA
5 INSPIRING YEARS



Scan the QR code for a 3D AR experience of the S-Cross.



New 1.5L Petrol Engine



New Automatic Transmission with Hill-hold Assist



New Smartplay Studio with Android Auto & Apple CarPlay*



Next Gen Smart Hybrid Technology



Sharp & Crystalline LED Projector Headlamps with LED DRLs

- DUAL FRONT AIRBAGS
- ABS WITH EBD
- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION COMPLIANCE
- FULL FRONTAL IMPACT COMPLIANCE, FRONTAL OFFSET IMPACT COMPLIANCE, SIDE IMPACT COMPLIANCE

Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black Glass Shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only.

S-CROSS
THE REFINED SUV

A REVOLUTIONARY WAY
TO CONNECT TO YOUR CAR
► Vehicle Tracking
► Emergency Alert
► Driving Behaviour Analysis
► Live Vehicle Status
► Vehicle Alerts

Offered separately as Genuine NEXA Accessory